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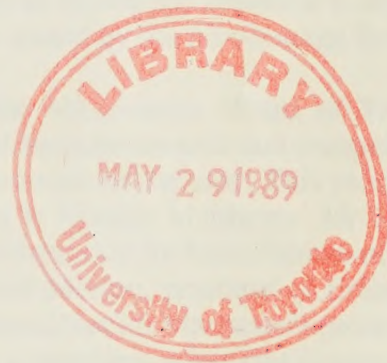
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## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario



**Second Session, 34th Parliament**  
Monday, 15 May 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, 15 May 1989

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### PROPERTY SPECULATION

**Mr Farnan:** Today, I wish to deliver a timely message to the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) from the Cambridge city council. Just last week, mindful that the Treasurer would soon introduce his budget, the Cambridge council passed a motion urging the implementation of a speculation tax on the purchase of all homes that are not primary residences.

The Cambridge motion underscores the fact that the housing crisis is not simply a Toronto phenomenon, but one that affects the entire province. In the past year, the average price of a Cambridge home rose 31.2 per cent, and the increase on this same home since this Liberal government came to power just four years ago is a staggering 128.2 per cent.

I have raised this issue on a consistent basis over the past 19 months and I can tell the Treasurer that the people of Cambridge will be watching closely this coming Wednesday to see if their concerns are addressed in the upcoming budget.

The time is long overdue for the government to take the heat out of the housing market and renew the hopes of young couples so that they may still aspire to own their own homes. A speculation tax on the purchase of all homes that are not primary residences would be a good first step. The time is long overdue for such a tax. The Treasurer should not let us down.

### LAND TRANSFER TAX

**Mr Jackson:** This government has a history of floating trial balloons to the media to test reaction to specific budget items under consideration. Last year's trial balloon was an increase in the sales tax, and we all know that cost us over \$1 billion.

On 17 February, the Treasurer suggested to the Toronto Star that he was thinking of increasing the land transfer tax. Today, at a Queen's Park press conference, the presidents of the Mississauga, Ottawa-Carleton and Metropolitan Ham-

ilton real estate boards gave the government a simple message: "Any increase in the land transfer tax would be a punitive measure which hits purchasers hard and is totally unnecessary. This regressive tax constitutes a threat to private property rights, a threat to stable real estate values, and most importantly, a threat to affordable and accessible housing for Ontario citizens."

Ontario's land transfer tax, both on the basis of total revenue and average cost to home buyers, is the highest in Canada. This government takes in over \$560 million in total revenue from this tax. As well, the total revenue collected through this one tax has increased by 302 per cent since the Liberals first came to power. On Wednesday, should the Treasurer proceed, then the Peterson government will have increased this housing tax twice in the last four years. The message the citizens of this province are sending this government is simply this: "David Peterson, don't even think of raising the land transfer tax again."

### MISSISSAUGA BOARD OF TRADE

**Mr Offer:** Mr Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House of a recent major business award by the Mississauga Board of Trade.

Each year the Mississauga Board of Trade holds its annual business awards and recognizes the local businessman of the year. This year the award recipient is Donald Matthews. Mr Matthews was recommended for businessman of the year by Desmond Morton, principal of Erindale College, who noted that Mr Matthews's record of achievement is exemplary, a fact that is supported by the positive work of the Matthews Group throughout Mississauga.

This is demonstrated in his building called the Sussex Centre in the heart of Mississauga at Burnhamthorpe and Highway 10. This state-of-the-art building is a mix of office, hotel, residential, retail, dining and theatre space and represents a significant departure from the traditional office complex in Mississauga and a unique concept in the Mississauga city core.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the exemplary record of the Mississauga Board of Trade. Formed in 1976 with only 400

members, it has grown to include 600 member companies and has over 3,200 individual members. It is the second largest board of trade in Ontario. Today, I recognize an individual and an organization from Mississauga with exemplary records of community service and congratulate them on the contribution they have made both to their community and to the province.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS

**Mrs Grier:** Today, I am tabling for first reading an environmental bill of rights. This bill is an updated and revised version of a bill of rights first introduced to this House by my colleague the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms Bryden) in 1980.

Today's bill contains the essential rights people of this province need if they are to play their part in protecting the environment: the right to go to court, the right to request the minister to investigate alleged pollution, the right to be informed about and involved in all decisions affecting the environment, and the right to be protected from reprisals if they blow the whistle on a polluting employer.

But the bill has been strengthened by including a statement of purpose that recognizes the right of Ontarians to an environment that is adequate for their health and wellbeing, as well as sustainable into the future. Twice since 1985 an environmental bill of rights, introduced by me, has passed second reading in this Legislature. In opposition, the Liberals supported such a bill and before both the 1985 and 1987 elections promised to introduce similar legislation. I anticipate that the second reading debate on this bill will occur in June and I look forward once again to widespread support.

#### DRIVER'S HANDBOOK

**Mr Harris:** Last week, I was informed by a constituent that it was impossible to obtain a copy of the Driver's Handbook in Ontario. Members will know that knowledge of this guide is required to obtain a driver's licence. Assuming this was a mistake, I made inquiries to the Ministry of Transportation head office in Toronto. I found out that not only had the ministry run out of handbooks but that none would be printed before July.

In the meantime, thousands and thousands of prospective new drivers are unable to apply for, let alone take their driver's test for at least two months. It has been suggested by some that this is no accident. The incredible delays and waiting time for driver's tests are well-known. Some

people may think the ministry held up printing of the guide to reduce the backlog. Some say it is their solution to deal with the transit mess they have created or to cope with Ontario's deteriorating highways by keeping cars off the road; but I do not agree, I attribute this extraordinary situation to sheer incompetence. It is simply another example of this government's inability to plan.

I do not expect much from the Liberals, and they have always met my expectations. If they cannot even provide the Drivers' Handbook at the height of an insurance crisis, it is no wonder they are failing so miserably to deal with crisis after crisis in the fields of health care, housing and education.

1340

#### CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

**Mr Velshi:** I would like to take this opportunity to formally recognize the efforts of the Canadian Red Cross Society and the Flemingdon Red Cross branch within the riding of Don Mills.

Certainly, all of us are aware of the tremendous service the Red Cross performs for the medical community through its blood collection and distribution. Their relief efforts both here and abroad also have gained the Red Cross a great deal of due recognition.

However, not all of us are aware of the magnitude of the Red Cross's involvement at the community level. Whether it means driving seniors throughout the community, lending sickroom equipment, providing space for community groups, food and clothing banks, first aid or water safety instruction, the Red Cross can be counted on. Wherever people are in need, the Red Cross is present.

As a past member of the executive and past chairman of the board of directors of the Flemingdon Red Cross, I feel privileged that this branch office, directed by Judy Spears, can contribute so greatly to the Don Mills community.

As the summer holiday season will soon be upon us, a time when blood is often in short supply, it is important we recognize and never forget that the Red Cross counts on our generosity to donate. We have always been able to count on the Red Cross in times of need. This summer, let us not forget the needs of those who so vitally require blood.

#### TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL

**Mr Reville:** Because of the unprecedented nursing shortage in the province, the reasonable

person might be forgiven for thinking that those who employ nurses are doing their best to make sure that nurses are happy in their work. That is probably why all of us are surprised to find out the way the Toronto General Hospital is treating its 1,500 registered nurses.

Among other things, it has failed to pay 16 months of retroactive money, delayed the implementation of contractually agreed salary increases, increased nurses' parking rates, denied negotiated vacation benefits, given preferential treatment to nurses from elsewhere and required mandatory overtime—this in the midst of a crisis when nurses have been telling this government and others that it is crummy to work in many of the workplaces where they have to work.

The head nurse said this is ignorance at best and arrogance at worst. It is hard to disagree with that.

**Mr Harris:** I wonder if I could seek unanimous consent to say a few words about the late E. P. Taylor.

Agreed to.

#### E. P. TAYLOR

**Mr Harris:** I want to take a few moments to honour one of Canada's outstanding citizens, E. P. Taylor, who died yesterday. Mr Taylor was a man who was outstanding in many fields and I want to take a minute or two to go over some of his many achievements.

Mr Taylor was one of Canada's outstanding businessmen. He founded Argus Corp, which remains one of Canada's most successful investment corporations. Mr Taylor's willingness to invest in Canada and to stake money on Canada's strength, especially after the war when many predicted economic catastrophe, was indeed an example of the strong business leadership that allowed Canada to develop and compete in international markets.

E. P. Taylor was renowned for his efforts on behalf of the community. He raised unprecedented amounts of money for the Toronto General Hospital, helped support the Art Gallery of Ontario, helped build the O'Keefe Centre, was on the board of the Victorian Order of Nurses and supported McGill University and Ashbury College.

But two achievements of Mr Taylor stand out for me from among his very many. I remember the great pride felt by Canadians all across this country when Northern Dancer won the Kentucky Derby. This was the first time a Canadian-bred and Canadian-trained horse had won the derby, and it showed that Canadian horses could

compete and win against the best horses in the world. Northern Dancer, as members will know, went on to become one of the leading sires in the world and indeed the foundation sire of the best blood line in North America.

I was also impressed by the initiative shown by Mr Taylor in the planning and development of Don Mills. He realized that planning developments would be necessary as the urban populations grew, and now as the housing situation has reached crisis proportions I believe we can appreciate even more the importance of thoughtful planning.

E. P. Taylor reminded us that even when a situation seems overwhelming or when most people believe something cannot be done, the individual can indeed make the difference. He showed us that Canadians can be the best in the world. I believe Mr Taylor serves as an inspiration in his support of health care, education, sports, the arts, his community and indeed his country.

My leader, my caucus colleagues and my party extend our sympathies to the Taylor family.

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** I too rise, on behalf of my caucus and my party, to pay tribute to a man whom many consider to be a great Canadian. It is true that he was a man of great wealth, but he was also a man of great contributions and great gifts. His personal life was shrouded in anonymity, but his public life and public record are well known to all Canadians.

His contributions to the public wellbeing were creative, legendary and too numerous to list, but they include raising more than \$16 million for the Toronto General Hospital in 1951—I remind all members that was when \$16 million really was \$16 million—not to mention the fund-raising activities on behalf of the Art Gallery of Ontario, the development of the O'Keefe Centre and his stewardship of the Victorian Order of Nurses.

He recently donated his main house on Bayview Avenue in York Mills and 30 acres to the city of North York. It was subsequently transformed into the Canadian Centre for Advanced Film Studies.

His administration of the Canadian economy during the Second World War as one of the fabled dollar-a-year men led to his appointment by the late King George as a Companion of St Michael and St George. His contributions as an entrepreneur to Canadian business and commerce are similarly legendary and too numerous to list, but they include the construction of the Argus empire, Canadian Breweries Ltd and industrial companies whose international scope

and competitiveness should make all Canadians proud that he was one of us.

He redrew the Canadian corporate map and littered it with such names as Hollinger, Dominion Stores, Domtar and Standard Broadcasting. The development of the rolling hills of Don Mills and York Mills in the 1950s by the Don Mills Development Co created the community of Don Mills at a time when few others were thinking of planned communities. Don Mills is legendary for its mixture of housing types and inclusion of all income strata in Canada's first planned community.

As chairman of the Ontario Jockey Club, he transformed Ontario's leaky-roof racing circuit into one that is international in stature. Indeed, the man surrounded himself with legendary names and legendary acts of charity and philanthropy.

As a private person, he was not well known to the Canadian public. He is a man who touched all of us in one way or another and his acts of business enterprise and public generosity are well known to all of us. For these, he will never be forgotten.

Mr Speaker, I too would ask that you convey, on behalf of my party and caucus, our sympathies to the Taylor family.

**Mr B. Rae:** Mr Taylor lived a very long and active life. He made a great many friends in a great many fields. He had a remarkable family and has a remarkable family. It is to that family that we wish to extend our condolences today.

**The Speaker:** When Hansard, the official record of this House, is printed, I will of course make certain a copy is received by the Taylor family, so that your words of sympathy are received.

1350

## STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

### YOUNG OFFENDER RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** Members will recall that on 6 February, I addressed the House following two very tragic incidents involving young offenders. I announced then that my ministry's staff, with the support of staff from the Ministry of Correctional Services and the Ontario Provincial Police, would undertake two reviews within a 90-day time period.

The first was a review of safety and security measures in place at all secure custody and detention facilities serving young offenders. The second was a review of the community-based,

residential placement options for high-risk young offenders.

I wish to report to this House that the reviews are now complete and today I am tabling a copy of the report in the Legislature. I will review its findings and, as soon as possible, report back to the Legislature on my ministry's plans to address the important issues raised therein.

## NATIONAL TOURISM AWARENESS WEEK

**Hon Mr O'Neil:** I rise today to remind members that this is National Tourism Awareness Week in Canada. Earlier today, I had the pleasure of attending a meeting in Stratford to participate in its celebrations. As we all know, and especially you, Mr Speaker, Stratford is the hub of the beautiful county of Perth and a cultural magnet drawing visitors from around the world.

I told the members of the Stratford Visitors and Convention Bureau just what their industry means to our province, a province in which tourism and related services generate nearly five per cent of our gross provincial product.

In 1988, travellers in Ontario spent an average of \$29 million a day for a total of \$10 billion, up from \$9.3 billion in 1987. The tourism industry contributed over \$1 billion to provincial revenues. Despite the enormous economic impact of this industry, it is largely invisible.

Our industry is substantially made up of small businesses, locally owned and in touch with their communities. While these businesses are locally based, they are increasingly being drawn into global competition for the patronage of the international travelling public.

Recognizing we can no longer depend on prosperity and growth flowing from only the domestic market, my ministry is doing all it can, in the spirit of long-term directions enunciated in the recent speech from the throne, to enable our tourism professionals to meet the challenge of the nineties.

Tourism is already one of our top five export industries. To move it to the head of the list, we are aggressively pursuing new markets and consolidating our resources to give more effective assistance to our clients. The efforts of innovative small businesses are a key motivator for an industry that provides full-time employment to more than 470,000 Ontarians. They form an important part of the foundation upon which our province's future is being built.

I ask all members to join me in saluting the men and women of the tourist industry and their remarkable achievements as we mark National Tourism Awareness Week.

## POLICE WEEK

**Hon Mrs Smith:** Mr Speaker, as you know, this is Police Week in Canada, a time to show our appreciation to the dedicated men and women who serve and protect the citizens of Ontario. Earlier today, the Premier (Mr Peterson) and I participated in the official ceremonies launching Police Week. I announced that this year's theme in Ontario is "Shake hands with a cop."

As Solicitor General, I have had the pleasure of shaking hands with many police officers throughout this province. They are part of a new breed that sees policing as a community affair. In Ontario, that means a partnership between the police and the community. Programs such as Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Stoppers are fine examples of that co-operation with communities that helps to prevent and solve crime.

There are other police initiatives to improve access and visibility in the community. What were once old ideas are new again. In many areas of the province, police are back walking the beat and many others are working in storefront offices. These efforts by police to become more involved with the community they serve have been welcomed with enthusiasm.

In Ontario, safe communities do not just happen. They are a tribute to the quality of our police forces. Citizens can participate in Police Week by introducing themselves and their children to the local police. I invite everyone to join in this theme, "Shake hands with a cop." Visit your local police force. Get an opportunity to say thank you to them for the fine job that they do for Ontario.

## CONTAMINATED FUEL

**Hon Mr Bradley:** Today I wish to inform the Legislature of results of tests for toxics in fuels and to update members on recent meetings.

Twenty gasoline samples tested at our ministry laboratory over the weekend detected no polychlorinated biphenyls or solvents. These samples were gathered from a variety of Metropolitan Toronto and Peel gasoline stations last week.

In addition, I am informed by M. Bouchard's office that Environment Canada has just gotten results from tests of 59 fuel samples, 43 from Ontario border crossings. Their analysis found no PCBs in any of those samples.

These results are in addition to the 12 vehicle fuel and heating oil samples taken during the April border checks, reported last week, where analysis revealed no PCBs or solvents.

I noted in the weekend press that the Toronto Sun, using Mann Testing Laboratories in Missis-

sauga, analysed fuel samples from six discount gasoline stations in Metro and, in its words, "failed to find PCB-tainted fuel."

These results do not prove that no toxic wastes are being hidden in virgin fuels and imported into Canada, as has been alleged, or that we should not continue to look for them. We shall.

Any contaminated fuel found in our sampling will be traced back through the distribution chain to uncover every conspirator involved. The participation of the OPP, the RCMP and Environment Canada in a joint task force will aid us in rooting out any trafficking that we can confirm.

At their meeting last week, hosted by Ontario in Toronto, the Great Lakes governors pledged their support and co-operation in these investigations.

It remains my belief that the best way to protect the people and environment of Ontario is to stop pollution, in all its forms, at the source.

On a related matter, I wish to inform this House that a truck carrying PCB-contaminated wastes from Ontario to Michigan has been impounded at the Bluewater Bridge international border in Sarnia. My ministry yesterday laid six charges against the Milton company where the shipment originated.

The company, Aimco-Solrec, has been charged with unlawfully receiving, transferring, generating and processing PCB wastes. The maximum fine the judge may impose on the counts upon first conviction is \$25,000 for each count.

In addition, a director's instruction was issued requiring the company to cease operations at this unregistered PCB storage site. The operation has been padlocked by ministry officials. This is a case concerning charges of illegally contaminated wastes, however, and not tainted fuel.

As the Legislature may have heard from reports over the weekend, my deputy and I met with the federal ministers of Health and Environment and the Quebec Minister of the Environment in Ottawa last Friday to discuss further actions.

It was decided that the federal government would step up border checks of fuel trucks for PCBs and would restrict the number of border crossings fuel trucks may use so as to be able to scrutinize the traffic more carefully.

My ministry's enforcement officers, skilled at the specialized task of tanker sampling, took the initial samples for Environment Canada at the border and will assist Environment Canada until its own inspectors are trained.

Environment Canada will also be provided with assistance from our laboratory scientists on developing a capacity at the federal level to test fuels for contaminants other than PCBs.

On that same day, a meeting was held at my ministry with the OPP, RCMP, Environment Canada officials and members of our investigation and enforcement branch to further co-ordinate efforts to confirm the allegations of tainted fuel trafficking.

Sampling for PCBs and other toxics in fuels throughout Ontario will continue to be carried out and reported.

1400

## RESPONSES

### YOUNG OFFENDER RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

**Mr Allen:** Responding to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney) and his review of the young offender residential service system, all members will remember the traumatic circumstances under which this report was generated, the murder of Krista Sepp in the Midland home.

One of the primary recommendations and observations in this report is an utterly damning indictment of the ministry and its funding levels with respect to such homes and such residential facilities, when it says that lack of funding is such that it is difficult to maintain a stable staffing environment.

Second, the emphasis at that time in this House was upon the need for additional staff, not just at the young offender and the secure detention facilities, especially to remedy the single staff personnel that were on duty at certain times. It is rather astonishing that this report really says almost nothing about that and goes on to refer only to the young-offender-related institutions and the secure facilities, which need a minimum standard, as it puts it, for night staffing and secure facilities. In so far as I am able to see in a quick review of the document, it really does not address the central issue that was of concern to this House at the time.

I hope the minister in his review, as will the rest of us in this review, will try to look closely at that particular apparent omission, and one would almost suggest whitewash of the present situation by its failure to address the question of secure staffing at nights, in particular in facilities which may possibly have young offenders in them, not just necessarily young-offender-related institutions.

## POLICE WEEK

**Mr Hampton:** On behalf of the New Democratic Party, I want to acknowledge the importance of police work to us and to all the working people of Ontario. However much we may condemn this government for its mishandling of police matters, we do express our deep appreciation to those dedicated women and men whose daily work as police officers is to serve and protect the citizens of Ontario.

## CONTAMINATED FUEL

**Mrs Grier:** Finally, after a week of the most intense debate both here and in the House of Commons about tainted fuel in this province, we have a statement from the minister: and what does it tell us? That last weekend he did not find any contaminated fuel.

How stupid does the minister think the illegal importers of tainted fuel are? Does he think that they are going to be still importing it last weekend after the issue was made public a week ago in the *Globe and Mail*?

When it first became public, what did the minister say? The minister said—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mrs Grier:** A week ago, we heard that the minister was looking at every possible violation and believed he was building up—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mrs Grier:** On Monday, he was building a powerful case to bring before the courts. On Tuesday, he said he was dealing with people who are not unsophisticated, they are experts in the field and there will be a long hot summer. Then he went to Ottawa. There was still no statement in this House on Wednesday. He said he was looking for the kingpins and that was why he could not explain to this House what was happening because there were bigger fish he was going to fry.

On Thursday he acknowledged that he had found no results of contaminated PCBs, and on Friday he went to Ottawa again and all the border crossings were closed. Obviously, somebody felt there was a major problem and somebody said to the minister, "You'd better make a statement fast, because you have not really been heard on this issue."

What this statement shows is proof that, having known about this problem for a year, this minister is today unable to explain to this House that he realized the health implications of the

problem when it first came to his attention. He is unable to tell us or has not told us the extent of the investigations that his ministry has undertaken, not since last Monday but since he first heard about it a year ago. Nor has he reported to us on who he found importing illegal waste, what charges have been laid and the extent of the problem for the people of this province so that they can understand what the health implications are. We think they are very severe and we think this minister should have shared them with us long before now.

#### NATIONAL TOURISM AWARENESS WEEK

**Mr Farnan:** The Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr O'Neil) means well. However, despite my repeated calls, there is still no representative of the hospitality industry on the Premier's Council. Surely the minister will recognize that he has been castrated by his own Premier (Mr Peterson). When will we have members of the hospitality industry on this council?

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

#### CONTAMINATED FUEL

**Mr Brandt:** I would like to respond to the statement made by the Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley) with respect to the latest actions taken in concert by his ministry and the federal Department of the Environment.

When one looks at the facts, in that the federal minister found out some time last week for the first time in terms of direct advice and has acted to close some border points down to limit the number of access points into Canada, has initiated rigorous testing and is attempting to get, through the work of the RCMP and I hope in co-operation with the OPP, to the bottom of where some of this criminal activity is taking place, all of which our party agrees with.

We would like to go on record as saying that we are in fact very much in support of the testing and very much in support of the reduction in the number of border points in order to be able to confine to an absolute minimum, if you will, the number of access points where this material could be brought into Canada.

Having said that, the position of our party has consistently been that this minister had a responsibility to share with his colleagues federally and his other colleagues in this Ontario Legislature who have the appropriate responsible ministries, the information that he had back in January. It would only follow that if it is correct,

proper and appropriate today to start this kind of rigorous testing and elimination of some of the border points where this material could flow freely into Canada, it would have been equally as appropriate to do the same kind of action back in January when the minister himself claims he was first advised of this type of illegal and potentially criminal activity.

I say to the minister with all due respect that he is acting after the fact. We have said consistently that the shortcomings of his ministry and the minister personally have come from the fact that he wanted to get his so-called bad guys in advance of warning the public. His first priority had to be to tell the people of this province that there was a potential health risk, and that was the responsibility he failed to exercise.

#### YOUNG OFFENDER RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

**Mrs Cunningham:** We would like to respond to the tabling of the report on young offenders, Review of the Young Offender Residential Service System, by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney).

We certainly applaud the review and from our short chance to look at it, we think the recommendations are definitely far-reaching. I think the most interesting fact about this review is that it seems so thorough, and it is an internal review and therefore the minister's own staff are telling him what the problems are. I think that is the best place to hear it from.

We are very concerned, of course, about the staffing and remuneration levels, the lack thereof; the turnover and the training, as the report defines. The security is the other part that the minister promised he would deal with. I guess the bottom line is truly that we have to recognize the lack of financial resources, both for personnel and capital.

The question would be, when will the recommendations be dealt with? We will be looking very carefully at that.

#### POLICE WEEK

**Mr Sterling:** I would like to add my party's support for our police community. It has been evident to our party over the past year that there has been a substantial lack of support on the part of the government for our police community. It is nice to see this government, at least for one week, recognize the contribution of these people who put out for us in so many ways during the year. I hope that in the coming year, not only for this week, that its support for the police will be

more tangible and of longer duration than we have seen in the past.

Of course, we have recognized in the past year and continue to recognize the very significant contribution these individuals give to society and the very tough task they have. We believe they deserve this support. They will always have our support.

1410

#### NATIONAL TOURISM AWARENESS WEEK

**Mr McLean:** Briefly, on the National Tourism Awareness Week, which was announced by the minister, I want to say it will be with great enthusiasm that we will see the input he has in the budget of the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) that he will not extra-tax the cigarettes and many items that will be—

**The Speaker:** Thank you. That completes the allotted time for ministerial statements and responses.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

#### ORAL QUESTIONS CONTAMINATED FUEL

**Mr B. Rae:** I would like to go to the Minister of the Environment. On Friday the minister was in Ottawa, and on Friday it was decided by the federal government, after a meeting which he attended, that 125 of the 175 border crossings across Canada would be closed and that all fuel-bearing trucks at the other 50 crossings would be tested. That is a sign, a symbol, a signal of how seriously the allegations and rumours which the minister referred to in the House last week were taken by a group of senior Environment ministers in this country.

Alone among those ministers, this Minister of the Environment has known about this information since January of this year. That poses the obvious question: Why did the minister not organize that same, similar meeting as soon as he was informed by his department, so that instead of closing the border after the horse is gone, there would have been a chance of catching people back in January when the minister himself knew about this problem?

**Hon Mr Bradley:** The investigation commenced when the suspicions and allegations were coming forward in the month of January; the investigation was initiated at that time. I repeat to the member, as I did last week, that there was no concrete evidence of this happen-

ing. In fact, it represented allegations and suspicions at that time and nothing more.

At the present time, for instance, there has been a series of newspaper articles with some rather intricate details which have brought to the attention of the public and others even more information which could be followed up, and we now have activity in a number of areas. I say to the member that the investigations and enforcement branch of the Ministry of the Environment was in fact working on this investigation for some period of time.

**Mr B. Rae:** I am not asking the minister to report on the investigations and enforcement branch, which took some three months before it even took its first sample in April at a border crossing, and it was not until this weekend that it first started testing gasoline stations.

I am asking the minister personally this question. He knew about this problem in January. He was personally the only Minister of the Environment who knew about it. His federal counterpart has stated publicly that he did not know. I am asking this minister this question: The border was shut on Friday. Does the minister not realize that the border could have been closed back in January when he personally knew about it? Can he tell us why he did not inform his federal counterparts, why he personally did not phone up the federal government, why he personally did not—

**The Speaker:** Thank you. Order.

**Hon Mr Bradley:** The matter of waste management, particularly hazardous waste management, itself is a matter of ongoing interest and has been for some time with Environment ministers across the country.

Our investigations and enforcement branch, when it was informed of the information, felt it would be worthy of taking a careful look at all aspects of waste management. That does not include exclusively and only what the member describes as the possibility of contaminated fuel, but a number of potential problems that could exist, any potential problem that could exist; in other words, where the paperwork does not correspond in fact to what you find in the trucks or what you find when they get to a plant gate, for instance.

That is what our ministry was endeavouring to do, to attempt to substantiate these allegations and suspicions, and that is what it continues to do.

**Mr B. Rae:** I want to ask the minister a question again. He alone, among those ministers, knew about this problem in January. When

the other ministers discovered it, they decided to close down a border. Why did the minister not personally inform his colleague the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan) and the federal Minister of the Environment with respect to a potential public health problem that was sufficiently serious that the border was closed on Friday? Why did he personally not do that in January when he first knew about it?

**Hon Mr Bradley:** Because, as I say to the member again—he does not want to listen to this, and that is his prerogative—he was talking about suspicions and allegations at that time, and not about any further information that was forthcoming.

We have been investigating for some period of time by conducting interviews through the ministry's investigations and enforcement branch, by doing border testing in addition to that and by doing testing in other places in Ontario, to attempt to determine whether in fact there is any substantiation to this. If in fact this practice is going on, it would be our goal to ensure that we get the people who are ultimately responsible.

**Mr B. Rae:** I have a second question to the same minister. Nothing has changed since January; he has as little or as much information now as he had then. The only thing that has changed is that the Globe and Mail made it public last Monday, and that when the federal government realized the potential seriousness of this problem it decided to close the border on Friday. Those are the only things that have changed.

The minister is in the unique position among ministers in that he personally knew of these suspicions. He personally knew how serious it was and that is why he started the investigation. That is what he told the House. No testing happened until April.

Why did he so badly underestimate the seriousness of this problem that he did not tell his federal counterparts about it when he personally knew about it?

**Hon Mr Bradley:** Because, to this very day, there is not the kind of evidence that we would need to be able to take the kind of action that the member contemplates.

For instance, I mentioned that we had a team of people at the border in April, assisting us and providing the kind of co-operation that we thought was very good at that period in time, including Environment Canada officials, along with the OPP, which was dealing with the issue of transportation of contaminated wastes—in other words, the proper placarding—and also the Highway Traffic Act, to ensure that whatever

trucks were carrying wastes were capable of doing so in a physical sense. We had the co-operation of the customs and excise division of the Department of National Revenue; we had the co-operation of a number of people in those border checks. At that time we took our tests, and to this point in time we have not been able to confirm those allegations.

**Mr B. Rae:** I would like to ask the minister this question: Can he tell us why closing the border on Friday made sufficient sense that I heard him endorse it? I heard him say on the radio with my own ears how this was going to introduce the element of surprise. I would like to ask the minister: If that solution was endorsed specifically by the minister on Friday, why was it not an equally valid solution when he personally knew about it in January?

**Hon Mr Bradley:** First of all, the opportunity for the federal government to do this—and this was its prerogative, which I would support—is one which of course we support because it allows the government to utilize its resources in the best possible way and that is its decision.

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I am not here to pick on the federal government over this issue or to attempt to cause problems for the federal government. I am here to co-operate with the federal government in this. The member may be here to make political hay, and that is his responsibility. I recognize that.

**Mr Reville:** There's nothing in the barn to eat the hay.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Bradley:** We are certainly continuing to co-operate with the federal government, as it co-operated with us at our border checks in April.

**Mr B. Rae:** Bingo tried to be Rambo and came up Clouseau. That is what we have.

I want to ask the minister this simple question. If he cannot answer any of the other questions that I have put to him, I would like to ask him this simple question: If he took it so seriously back in January and if he was in charge of it to the extent that he says it was, can he tell us why the first testing was not done at the border until April and why there were no tests of gasoline stations until this weekend?

**Hon Mr Bradley:** We began to develop our investigation, through the investigations and enforcement branch, in the early part of this year by initially conducting interviews, attempting to gather information from individuals and then setting up a testing program at the borders, plant gates and other places around Ontario. In fact,

that is what we have done. We were the people who were doing it.

We had the co-operation of the federal government in April of this year in doing so, and I appreciate that co-operation. We have had the co-operation of using their property on those border points. In fact, members will remember that there were a number of people who were there at the border from the news media and other areas who were aware of what was going on, the testing that was going on at the border at the time, and the federal government was supportive of what we were doing. I think that was an appropriate way in which to move.

**Mr Brandt:** My question as well is to the Minister of the Environment and it relates to the same subject. The minister obviously, as he has indicated in his responses, is thankful for the co-operation that he is now getting from the federal government with respect to closing border points, increasing the amount of testing to a more rigorous discipline than perhaps it has been in the past and also stepping up the number of checks that are going on at these entry points.

Given that the minister is in favour of what is now happening as a result of the involvement of the federal government, could the minister perhaps enlighten this House as to exactly what steps he took back in January when he first found out about this with respect to any testing that went on at that time, any particular actions by his ministry? What did he do with that information? We know the minister did not share it with anyone in this House or with any other ministries or with the federal government. Exactly what did he do with respect to testing back in January?

**Hon Mr Bradley:** As I indicated, when the information of these allegations and suspicions came to the attention of the investigations and enforcement branch in January of this year, they commenced an investigation which takes into account a number of different tactics that must be used in these investigations. In addition to that, they decided they would proceed as well with some actual tests that took place.

We as a ministry, through the investigations and enforcement branch, were involved in this undercover operation in an attempt to get not just the people who were immediately involved in it—and the member would recognize the importance of this—but those who were ultimately responsible for it as well. That has been the goal of our investigations and enforcement branch, and it continues to be.

**Mr Brandt:** If there were investigations carried out in January as well as testing, then I

would think it would only be appropriate for the minister to share with this House his findings as a result of any activities that he carried out from January on through to the time that this became a public issue a week ago.

The minister has now indicated some of the tests that occurred in April, and he has shared those results with us, but I wonder if the minister can perhaps enlighten us as to the full range of activities that did take place, obviously on his own, because he did not co-operate with anyone else at that particular time in terms of sharing the information that he had back in January.

Could the minister perhaps just lay out for this House in some detail the activities that occurred back in January and from that time on until it became a public issue and the results of the tests that took place during that time frame?

**The Speaker:** Minister, I know the member asked for great detail. Probably you could do it in a reasonable length of time.

**Hon Mr Bradley:** I will try to do it in a reasonable length of time, Mr Speaker, but I go to the fact that the member is very much aware, as one who has had certain responsibilities, as have some of his colleagues, that a minister is not in a position to reveal the specifics of an investigation. If you do so—there are certain portions which, as I say, have certainly been revealed, but I think the member in all honesty could not really ask me to ask the investigations and enforcement branch to provide the kind of detailed information on an investigation which he is seeking, because the opportunity of jeopardizing that investigation is always present. I really ask him to consider that when he asks that question.

**Mr Brandt:** I think the minister could certainly provide to this House some indication of the number of personnel who were assigned to the investigation, the number of tests that were carried out and the results of those tests—perhaps not by mentioning the specific companies involved.

It comes as no particular surprise that the most recent testing does not turn up contaminated fuels or any tainted blended fuels when one recognizes that the red flags have gone up at 150 border points saying: “Don’t ship now; the heat’s on. Now is not the time to be shipping fuels across the border.” It does not take any genius to figure out that if you are engaged in criminal activity—

**The Speaker:** Question?

**Mr Brandt:** —now is not the time to carry out those particular types of activities.

I would ask the minister again, with respect: Would he share with this House the number of personnel that he in fact placed in a position to review this particular matter back in January? Exactly when were they assigned to that task? What types of tests were carried out? I am asking for general information; I am not asking for the minister to identify ABC Corp.

**Hon Mr Bradley:** I think the member is in fact attempting to gather the kind of information which is potentially damaging to an investigation. He knows that. The people who have held the position of Solicitor General or Attorney General or Minister of the Environment are well aware that in terms of investigations going on, it is not appropriate to provide the details of investigations. I am interested in tripping up the potential criminals and not in tipping off the potential criminals.

#### LOT LEVIES

**Mr Harris:** I have a question for the Treasurer. On at least four occasions since last December I have asked either the Minister of Housing (Ms Hošek) or the Treasurer himself whether any studies or reports have been done on the question of proposed new lot levy taxes on housing. Each time I was told that no studies had been done.

I have now obtained a copy of what I can only assume is a confidential report to the former Minister of Education on the subject of lot levies, dated April 1986. Would the Treasurer tell us what he knows about this study and why he failed to confirm its existence when asked about such studies in the House as recently as the last couple of weeks?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I was not aware of its existence and I still am not. I would appreciate it if the honourable member would give me a copy of it.

**Mr Harris:** Perhaps I can refresh the Treasurer's memory. The document was prepared as a result of correspondence to him from the former Minister of Education on the issue of new school construction. In fact, it was prepared by a Liberal staff member by the name of David Goyette, who I understand was then special adviser to one Robert Nixon. It mentions several drawbacks to the imposition of a levy on housing for school construction purposes, calling it "a grab" and an option that "moves us one step away from the concept of good community planning."

Can the Treasurer tell us why he has suppressed this information and why he is acting against its recommendations?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I have not suppressed it. I have already indicated my knowledge of the report.

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**Mr Harris:** Perhaps the Treasurer is suppressing his memory, not the document. This was prepared by the Treasurer's special assistant. It is indeed an interesting document. It states:

"It appears to be unwise to impose an additional education-related tax on those residents who already pay education taxes through the property tax. Affected residents would probably feel, with no school in close proximity or with the presence of portables, they are not getting their money's worth now, and a further tax is not justified."

It is interesting as well that the report also rejects a targeted provincial tax, believe it or not, simply because it might publicize the school shortage problem and leave the government open to attack.

Again, I would ask the Treasurer, why has he not searched for any government documents? Why has he not released this one done by his own special assistant, a report that says no to lot levies and yes to sound urban planning, before embarking on yet another Liberal tax grab—

**The Speaker:** The question has been asked.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I do not know how lot levies could be a Liberal tax grab since, if they were to be introduced, they would be at the behest of the municipalities and the school boards.

Interjections.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Well, it is the truth.

Actually, Mr Goyette did excellent work when he was working for me when I was Minister of Revenue, having to do with market value assessment. The review was actually led by my colleague the member for Waterloo North (Mr Epp) and was widely circulated and highly regarded.

I am not aware of the document the honourable member is leafing through in a peremptory way and I hope he will send a copy over. In fact, he will be aware that the green paper I presented to the Legislature in December has been widely circulated. There has been substantial response from school boards, municipal councils and a wide variety of individuals interested in adequate financing for school capital.

The honourable member will know that we have raised our budgetary allocation for school capital from the niggardly \$84 million per year his government allocated when he was a member of the government to \$300 million this year, with

a four-year commitment in that regard: a \$1.2-billion commitment.

### INCOME TAX

**Mr Laughren:** I have a question for the Treasurer as well. The Treasurer will know that when his government came to power, the provincial income tax rate was 48 per cent of the federal tax payable. Since then he has raised it to 50 per cent, 51 per cent, 52 per cent and now, if rumours are correct, it is going to go up to 53 per cent this year.

I would not ask the Treasurer to comment on a rumour; however, I would point out to the Treasurer that since he has become Treasurer, the number of people earning income below the poverty line has increased substantially, and in the last year for which figures are available almost 3,000 individuals in Ontario earning over \$50,000 paid no income tax whatsoever. Could the Treasurer tell us if he thinks that is fair. Why has he not done something about it by now?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Mr Speaker, I do not know whether you would agree with me, but that is somewhat reminiscent of the question asked by the honourable member last week. He must consider it a good one, so we will have another run at it.

I think the honourable member would know, at least looking at my ready reference here, that the revenues from corporations last year increased by just under 20 per cent and the revenues from personal income tax increased by 12.5 per cent. That may not be adjusting the balance sufficiently for the honourable member, but I thought those figures would speak for themselves to some extent.

I think the honourable member would also know, and probably support the concept, that our tax reduction program means well over 300,000 residents of the province who are registered to pay federal income tax are exempt from provincial rolls. Once again, I would agree with the honourable member that while that is insufficient, at least it is an indication of a movement by the government, budget by budget, in the direction he advocates.

**Mr Laughren:** That is simply not true. The Treasurer has not moved to relieve the burden on low-income taxpayers in the province. In 1988, as a matter of fact, the income tax reduction program to which he refers cost the Treasury about \$40 million, I believe. The preferential treatment of capital gains cost this Treasury almost \$500 million. How in the world does the Treasurer think it is fair to have individuals

earning \$2,000 below the poverty line paying income taxes while the better-heeled income earners out there are being subsidized to the tune of almost \$500 million a year because of the preferential treatment of capital gains? The Treasurer does absolutely nothing about it. Does he think that is fair?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I do not know how the honourable member can say the policy of the government does absolutely nothing about it because he knows otherwise. He knows that is clearly not true. I have already indicated to the honourable member the tax reduction program, which has already been described, and at the other end where it maybe even catches the honourable member, we have a surtax of 10 per cent on taxable incomes over \$80,000. We think that is quite an appropriate and progressive move that the honourable member should support and not ignore.

### DEVELOPMENTALLY HANDICAPPED

**Mrs Cunningham:** My question is directed to the Minister of Community and Social Services. MARC, which is the Metropolitan Agencies Representatives' Council, representing people with developmental handicaps, had a press conference today and advised us about some very serious concerns with programming for developmentally handicapped people.

Parents were there. Workers were there. Directors, board members and even unions were there. They advised us of a staffing crisis we know the minister is aware of. When can these parents and young adult children expect to receive the quality of care the minister promised in this report called Challenges and Opportunities that was released some time ago?

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** The honourable member will be aware that within that report we identified two populations of developmentally handicapped citizens of this province. The first were those who were living in the communities at the present time with their families, and for the most part had already done so. It would be our intent to provide more community-based services for those families so they could continue to keep their young people at home with them with that range of supports. The other group were those currently living in institutions, whether they are nursing homes or facilities directly operated by the ministry. The intent there was to provide opportunities for them to move out of those institutions and back into the community.

It is because of this two-pronged attack, if you will, that we have not been able to provide the

whole range of services those people already living in the community would like to get. I believe, though, the record will show that for those people we have moved out of the institutions we have provided a residential service and a day programming service. Our job now is to continue to try to catch up with the requirements of the community-based services for those families already there.

**Mrs Cunningham:** We heard from parents who still have children in their homes and are looking for some group home rather than what the minister and I would call institutionalized care. There are some 900 of those families on waiting lists right now. We also heard from a parent who has his 27-year-old developmentally handicapped child in a group home and who advised us of things the minister would be very much concerned about. I am now talking about staff turnover, lack of training, no confidence, things that are very concerning to parents.

The real issue here, Mr Speaker—

**The Speaker:** What about the question?

**Mrs Cunningham:** —is full parity when it comes to wages, so my question is, when will the minister table a plan for full parity and when will he table a plan for fairness in programming for these special families?

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** I indicated, I believe about three weeks ago, to another questioner that I would be announcing fairly shortly—I am hoping it is going to be within the next couple of weeks—particular target populations for community programs in which we would move closer to parity. I think I indicated at that time, and I will repeat it again, that I do not expect in this first go-around to get there but to close—to narrow the gap, I guess is a better way of putting it. I hope to be able to make those kinds of announcements some time within the next couple of weeks and I think we will deal at least in some way with the question the honourable member raised.

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#### POLICIES ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

**Mr Daigeler:** My question is to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. The ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany recently wrote to me regarding a charity event in which the embassy wanted to participate. The purpose of the event was to provide support for underdeveloped countries. The embassy was willing to provide German wines to the organizers who would then sell them to the participants.

The ambassador is upset that the Liquor Control Board of Ontario is unwilling to grant tax-free diplomatic prices to the embassy but insists that the wine be purchased at full price. May I ask the minister, why is it the policy of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario that embassies purchase wine at full price for charity events?

**Hon Mr Wrye:** The honourable member should know that the event a charity would be putting on, and which the federal republic would be supporting, nevertheless would require a special occasion permit under the rules as we now have them.

Neither the federal republic, the embassy, nor anyone else can provide that wine free of charge to any charitable group to put on an event. The wine or any other beverage alcohol for that event must be purchased by the person holding the special occasion permit. Those are the rules, and those are the rules we must follow. In fact, the embassy or any other embassy can only have tax-free diplomatic purchases for its own personal use and not for the use of others.

**Mr Daigeler:** I thank the minister for his answer. In the same letter the ambassador wrote to me, he also makes reference to another practice to which he objects. Apparently, the Liquor Control Board of Ontario refuses to sell wine from Vintages stores to embassies tax free and at diplomatic prices. According to the ambassador, the Liquor Control Board of Ontario is the only provincial authority that persists in this policy. I am informed the Department of External Affairs also disagrees with this particular policy of Ontario. I wonder whether the minister has any clarifying information on this or whether he can get back to the House at a later date.

**Hon Mr Wrye:** I should tell the honourable member that there is in effect a tax-free diplomatic discount, if you want to call it that, but we require that that embassy and others purchase their beverage alcohol through the LCBO head office. It is probably best for inventory control. They can get not only regular beverage alcohol, but also Vintages products through the head office. We do that because it is only at the head office that all of the additional charges, the additional taxes and other charges, have not been added. So we do not allow embassies or others to buy from Vintages stores or regular stores.

The LCBO also reserves the right to limit the amounts of Vintages products that it will sell to any embassy, as the products by their very nature are limited in quantity. We want to assure

ourselves and assure people in Ontario that they can all partake of those very special brands of wines.

#### DEVELOPMENTALLY HANDICAPPED

**Mr Allen:** I want to go back to the Minister of Community and Social Services on the question of the Metropolitan Toronto agencies serving the developmentally handicapped.

The minister's response to the Conservative critic suggested he had a good deal of time to respond to this issue that he says is a result of some two-pronged offensive of his. The fundamental question these agencies have put is that they are in fact in jeopardy. Today, they announced that they were not introducing any new programs and that their existing programs were deteriorating seriously as a result of funding levels that may have been appropriate in recession or depression times, but which certainly do not make them competitive. They have staff turnovers that are absolutely horrendous at this point in time in a service that requires stability of service to the clientele.

Will the minister please explain to this House and to the agencies concerned how he expects his program of deinstitutionalization and community living for these people to succeed in Metro when his grants force them into this kind of situation?

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** The honourable member will perhaps recall an earlier discussion about this when I pointed out to him that last year, I believe it was, for the first time in the history of this province there were more resources going to community-based programs for the developmentally handicapped than there were for those based at the institutional level. That is a clear indication of the shift of emphasis within Ontario from facility-based programs to community-based programs. A large number of dollars in fact have flowed that way.

The member will also be aware that there is definitely a staged and gradual implementation of Challenges and Opportunities. I think we have made that pretty clear in the document. I indicated to the previous questioner from the Progressive Conservative Party that I would be making an announcement within a couple of weeks, dealing with the wage question at the community level.

I recognize that is a problem and we are prepared to begin to deal with it more effectively than we have. I would conclude by reminding the honourable member that in areas like Metropolitan Toronto, we do have a particular problem, particularly with the very high cost of housing

with respect to young people, whether they are already in the community or coming from residential facilities. We are paying a very high cost and quite frankly are asking ourselves how much longer we can afford it.

**Mr Allen:** The living costs are the costs of the workers the minister has to have employed in the agencies in order to see that his program is effective. He has said we have reached a balance where we are putting more resources in total into the community agencies than into the institutions. That means we are at a critical watershed in the whole program of deinstitutionalization.

If he is telling me, in his last remarks, that it is virtually impossible for him to pay wages that make it possible for those agencies to keep people in place, to serve the clients in the whole program of community living, then we are at a very sorry pass and the watershed will reverse and we will have to go back to institutionalization, because many workers are beginning to lose faith in that process as a result of the situation in which they find themselves.

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** I regret if my words were misunderstood. I was attempting to indicate that it is difficult to establish new programs in areas like Metropolitan Toronto because of the high cost of the physical facilities. I would not for a minute suggest that we are not prepared to move towards reducing the gap—I think I indicated in my first answer that we were prepared to move towards that—with respect to parity between the two types of workers.

I agree with the honourable member, as I have told him in the past, that we need to do that as quickly as we possibly can. He will hear within a couple of weeks one of our earlier steps to do that.

#### CHAIRMAN OF ONTARIO PLACE CORP

**Mr McLean:** I had a question for the Premier (Mr Peterson) but I guess he has left, so I will direct my question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. In Friday's *Globe and Mail*, it was reported that Patricia Starr, the Liberal-appointed chairperson of Ontario Place, was in violation of federal law by making almost \$60,000 in political contributions from the funds of a charitable organization. Does the minister find this type of activity acceptable or will he ask the chair of Ontario Place to resign?

**Hon Mr O'Neil:** I should tell the member, of course, that those allegations, and that is what they are, have nothing to do with my ministry or with Ontario Place. But I might tell the member that Ms Starr has asked for a leave of absence

until these allegations are cleared up. In the meantime, Clare Copeland, who is the vice-chairman, will be the acting chairman.

**Mr McLean:** The minister will recall that Ms Starr made some very inappropriate and partisan statements in the 1987-88 annual report for Ontario Place. What I found most disturbing about Ms Starr's appointment to the board of Ontario Place was the fact that she was double-dipping at the taxpayers' expense. While she was still on the board of the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority, the government appointed her to the \$140-a-day Ontario Place job.

Why did the minister not do the honourable thing at that time and ask Ms Starr to give up one of her patronage positions? Now that we have learned Ms Starr made illegal payment to the campaign of the Minister of Housing (Ms Hošek), does the minister not think that Ms Starr should step down from Ontario Place and that the Minister of Housing should return the \$10,000 that was reported in the paper?

**Hon Mr O'Neil:** I think the member should be a little careful about some of the allegations he makes. Those are allegations and I do not think it is fair he should make such.

#### HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**Mr Adams:** My question is for the Minister of Education. There is great interest in lifestyle and health nowadays. It seems to me the foundations of a healthy life are laid in the schools. Is the ministry doing enough to ensure our students have a healthy lifestyle?

1450

**Hon Mr Ward:** As the member will know, the new curriculum guideline for health and physical education in fact speaks at length to the notion of the healthy lifestyle. That is throughout the curriculum and continues to be.

**Mr Adams:** I thank the minister for that. I know of his personal commitment to physical fitness. I understand that teenage females are among the least fit in our society. Is his ministry addressing that particular sector of the student population?

**Hon Mr Ward:** I am sorry I could not hear the last part of the member's question, though I did hear the preamble, and he did refer to the physical fitness of teenage female students. I want him to know that the guideline and the initiatives through the ministry and throughout the school system are very much geared to promoting health and physical fitness among all students.

#### ARMX '89

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** My question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Each day somebody is killed in El Salvador or in South Africa or sometimes in Chile and other countries around the world. Next week in Ottawa, there will be a conference of merchants of death called ARMX, which will involve the participation of—or at least invitations have been extended to—people from those countries and to independent arms dealers who often deal with those countries.

Given who is going to be there, can the minister explain to this House how it is that Ontario is investing \$20,000 for our arms merchants to participate in that kind of conference?

**Hon Mr Kwinter:** The member raises an interesting problem, but he has to understand that the policy of this country is set by the federal government. We have a very active aerospace industry. The member may feel that some of the products that are manufactured by that industry are used for purposes he does not approve of, but in the meantime they are a viable part of our economy; they are providing jobs, I am sure, even to people who live in his constituency, and we have an obligation to support them. That is the reason we are there.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** I understand it is the minister's point of view that there is virtually an unlimited export potential for defence products and that he endorses the expansion of that already too large industry in our province rather than a divestment and conversion.

Given our policies about South Africa and, I hope, about some of these other repressive regimes in the world, what advice does the minister give to those 20 firms that will be using the space he is paying for in terms of who they should deal with or not deal with? Does he think they should be able to sell arms to just anybody in the world and leave it up to the federal Tories to decide what is appropriate for Ontario tax dollars?

**Hon Mr Kwinter:** I am sure the member knows that there are federal restrictions on where products can be sold. That is a decision that has been made by the federal government, which has the sole jurisdiction in that area, and the manufacturers in Ontario abide by those particular guidelines.

#### NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES

**Mr Eves:** I have a question of the Minister of Health. The minister, I believe, has received as

recently as last week a copy of a letter directed from Dr. Kevin Nugent, the only child and family psychiatrist in northwestern Ontario, to Dr. Morrison, the district 9 representative of the council of College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

In his letter of 6 January of this year, he points out that at present, in northwestern Ontario there are 12 psychiatrists serving the entire region, with a population in excess of 230,000 people. If they had the proper population per psychiatrist ratio, they would have approximately 30 psychiatrists in northwestern Ontario. "In fact," he says, "it's entirely likely that our paltry psychiatric group here will drop to as low as six to eight psychiatrists in the coming year."

Is the minister aware of the problem? What is she doing about it?

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** I am very aware of this particular situation. The ministry has retained the services of Dr William Copeman, who for quite some time ran the underserviced area program. He is on retainer for the specific purpose of attracting psychiatrists, particularly for northern Ontario but around the province, and I believe his efforts are significant.

**Mr Eves:** This situation is somewhat similar to the problem with getting Dr Ho accredited at the cancer centre in northeastern Ontario. The minister says no, it is not.

I will read further from Dr Nugent's letter: "I had every reason to believe that Dr Gopfert was a well-trained, conscientious and competent practitioner of psychiatry, and indeed his training and credentials might be seen as markedly superior to my own." This is a psychiatrist who received his accreditation from the Royal College of Physicians in Britain, but for some reason the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario does not think he should be allowed to practise psychiatry here in Ontario.

Dr Gopfert said that his contacts with the college were, to quote Dr Nugent, "so discouraging that he completely despaired of proceeding with a formal request. This experience is a most frustrating and discouraging one from my own point of view, and I offer it as an example of how very discouraging"—

**The Speaker:** Order. Do you have a question?

**Mr Eves:** My question to the minister is—she has had examples with respect to the cancer centre in northeastern Ontario. Now we have the psychiatric situation in northwestern Ontario. The minister has the duty, not just the—

**The Speaker:** Order. Will the member take his seat.

**Mr Eves:** Is the minister going to do anything or not? Is she going to exercise her duty under the act?

**The Speaker:** Order. I gather the member is not interested in a response.

**Hon Mr Riddell:** Will you repeat the question?

**Mr Eves:** I am interested in an answer and I would love to get one.

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** How can you get one when you're yapping?

**The Speaker:** Order. The member for Parry Sound and other members may wish to refrain.

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** We have a number of initiatives under way in the ministry to address the human resource needs of northern Ontario. The member would know that the northern manpower committee has been recently formed and is addressing the very specific needs of the north. I mentioned the efforts of Dr Copeman and the northern incentive grants, which provide additional resources to physicians, but in fact the member is misinformed if he is suggesting that it is appropriate for the minister to intervene on the basis of a political assessment to assess and license physicians in this province.

I believe it is improper for me to intervene in an area which is rightly that of the college of physicians and surgeons. Through a peer assessment, through evaluation, it has the responsibility as an independent body to assess and license the physicians in this province and those who wish to practise in this province.

I would say to the member that I am surprised he would suggest that I take action which is clearly improper.

#### HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

**Mr Beer:** My question is to the Minister of Transportation. As the minister knows, Highway 404 has been under construction in York region for a number of years now and has had, over that period of time, some problems in the construction process. I wonder if the minister could bring the House up to date as to when it is now expected that the section which is currently being constructed through to Davis Drive in Newmarket will be completed.

**Hon Mr Fulton:** I appreciate the question from my colleague the member for York North and his ongoing interest in matters related to my ministry. I can tell him that notwithstanding the various difficulties that have had to be overcome with respect to that very necessary highway into

Newmarket, we will be on schedule and open for full-use traffic by the fall of this year.

**Mr Beer:** I know that everyone in that area is going to be delighted when that is finally open because of the great need. That raises the supplementary, which is in terms of the future direction of Highway 404.

I know that last month the minister was with the member for Durham-York (Mr Ballinger) meeting with officials from East Gwillimbury and, in the past, we have had discussions around Highway 89. What plans are now being looked at, in terms of extending Highway 404 north of Newmarket and on into the area to the south of Lake Simcoe?

1500

**Hon Mr Fulton:** The member for York North correctly identified the fact that I spent the best part of a day with our friend the member for Durham-York, who I know was also representing the member, because he was unable to be with us that day. We had an opportunity to meet with quite a wide variety of municipal people.

I can tell him that the extension of Highway 404 will take place eventually, and at some point we will have a specific announcement. We are working very closely in the study stage with the various municipalities and expect to be entering into the environmental process stage in the very near future. Certainly, our commitment is to proceed in a northerly direction from Davis Drive, and we will be able to advise the municipalities, my friend the member for Durham-York and our friend of the details very soon.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Miss Martel:** I have a question for the Minister of Labour concerning Bill 162 and deeming. Here is the case of Cecil Mohabir:

In 1983, Mr Mohabir was earning \$20,000 net a year as a supervisor of office equipment repairs. In November of that year, he slipped on grease in a storage room while carrying a 70-pound typewriter. He landed on his back and head and was knocked unconscious. After returning to work, he was fired because he could no longer carry the heavier equipment. He looked for jobs for two years, received no rehabilitation from the board and finally, in 1985, he set up his own office equipment repairing business.

Last year, he had a net income of \$15,000. He applied to the board for a supplement to make up his lost wages. He underwent a vocational reassessment and the board told him he was

capable of being an office equipment salesman and would make \$25,000 a year. Because he could make more as a salesman than he presently makes he was not allowed a supplement. I would like to ask the minister why he is allowing this practice of deeming to continue at the board.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** My friend the member for Sudbury East should know, because she has been an employee of the Workers' Compensation Board, the statutory language, under the act as it exists now, provides for temporary supplements and gives the board broad discretion to make the kinds of decisions she is referring to.

If she looks at Bill 162, she will notice the language is very substantially different and the practice of deeming, as she refers to it, will be qualified and constrained by regulations which will be made under the authority of the act, so that the question of suitable and available employment will be subject under the act to the regulations of the government.

**Miss Martel:** As a former board employee, I look at this bill and realize quite quickly that the discretion granted to the board is even broader, as it is phrased under this bill. For example, the practice of deeming allows for these qualifications or these criteria, not only is suitable and available under these criteria, but the board can look at "the personal and vocational characteristics of the worker," the "prospects for successful medical and vocational rehabilitation," any other payments he is receiving, "what constitutes suitable and available work" and, finally, "such other factors as may be prescribed in the regulations."

**The Speaker:** Do you have a question?

**Miss Martel:** My question to the minister is this. If they do not catch us on the first five, they will catch us in the regulations after. What is he going to do to limit the deeming, which is only enhanced under this bill?

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** It is absolutely surprising that the member should make those sorts of suggestions. The very fact that the board has broad discretion now, without any statutory guidelines at all, I suggest argues very strongly for statutory language, because the statutory language, as my friend knows perfectly well, allows a worker to register an appeal in the event that that worker is dissatisfied with the decision and gives the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal a statutory framework, to ensure that the worker is treated fairly when a decision on an appropriate economic loss award is made.

I am surprised and shocked that she would be arguing for a system which has no statutory language. If my friend wants to suggest—

**Miss Martel:** Language means nothing, Greg, and you know it.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** If she will stop screaming for a second, I will tell my friend if she wants to propose—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** Now they are all screaming. Now we have a chorus of screamers from the New Democratic Party.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** If, when the bill is considered on a clause-by-clause basis during its consideration in the standing committee on resources development, the member wants to suggest additional statutory language to that section to ensure that the worker is treated fairly, I will be all too happy to consider that language at that time.

#### FUNDING OF AGRICULTURE FEDERATIONS

**Mr Villeneuve:** To the Minister of Agriculture and Food: The Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario are still very much in the dark as to the status of their request for checkoff funding. Can the minister tell us when he will deliver the promised checkoff to the OFA and the Christian Farmers Federation?

**Hon Mr Riddell:** With all due respect, I say the member who is in the dark is the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

Just last Thursday I met with the Christian Farmers president, Brigid Pyke, the OFA president, and I met with the Christian Farmers Federation president. They made a proposal to me, and that proposal was that they wanted me to establish a task force consisting of commodity groups, the general farm organizations and my staff to completely review the situation and look at various proposals. That is where we stand at the present time, my friend.

**Mr Villeneuve:** I happen to have the announcement that the OFA put out shortly after the minister's meeting. They are getting a very mixed message from him. It appears that the federation would like to see checkoff from the tax rebate. It appears the government wants to see checkoff from commodities, which is not work-

ing very well in Manitoba. Where does he stand and which direction is he going in?

**Hon Mr Riddell:** If I decide to establish a task force, its members will be the ones to advise me. Unlike the Tories, I do not tell them; I listen to what they say to me.

#### TELEPHONE SOLICITATIONS

**Mr Callahan:** I have a question for the Minister of Culture and Communications in her capacity as Minister of Communications. Just recently, I received a call from one of my constituents, who had received a telephone solicitation by reason of a computer voice over the telephone trying to sell this person something. My constituent did not wish to buy whatever they were selling.

**Mr Hampton:** Liberal fund-raising.

**An hon member:** Tory membership cards.

**Mr Callahan:** No, they were selling NDP cards is really what it was.

He decided to hang up, but shortly thereafter he picked up his phone and this machine obviously was still continuing to spiel the pitch.

His concern and the nature of my question to the minister is that in the region of Peel and in other regions there has been extensive public money spent to create 911, which is an emergency service. If that cannot be rectified, and I am not certain whether it is within the minister's aegis or not—

**The Speaker:** Does the member have a question?

**Mr Callahan:** The question I would ask is whether something can be done about making certain that if the person hangs up, that will cut off the communication. Otherwise, someone would be left without a telephone in a case of an emergency.

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** I am not aware of the complexity and details from a legal point of view, but I understood that after a period of 10 seconds, or at least a defined period, the advertiser has to get off the phone, which is the only way I can think of putting it. But I will get back to the member, because it has been something that has been discussed in the context of our communications. It is not within my ministry, but it certainly is something that I will investigate for the member and get back to him on.

**Mr Callahan:** If it turns out that it is not within the minister's jurisdiction or not within her particular ministry, I would ask that she would consult with her colleagues, because certainly

my constituent, even though the members of the official opposition seem to think it is frivolous, was terribly concerned that people, particularly elderly people, would be faced with the possibility of being without a means of communication simply because someone wanted to sell something by reason of a computer. Surely the computer message does not rank higher than access of our disabled and our seniors to that particular type of safety valve, and we should see that it is dealt with in a very significant fashion. I would ask the minister to do that.

1510

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** I will certainly look into it. I know our ministry often acts as a licensing advocate on a variety of issues relating to public accessibility and rights. I just do not want to mislead the member about whether we have the final decision-making on monitoring the situation, but I will get back to him.

## PETITIONS

### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr South:** To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to 31 May 1982 have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"This proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

This is signed by 253 teachers, and I have also signed the petition.

**Mr Pope:** I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to 31 May 1982 have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"This proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

This petition is signed by 651 teachers from my constituency and the second signature is one

Linda Fillion-Pope, so I think I will attach my signature to it.

**The Speaker:** In case members had not noticed, the member for Nickel Belt was trying to get the floor.

**Mr Brandt:** I am just taller than he is.

**Mr Laughren:** It is not easy, Mr Speaker; it is not easy.

## PROPERTY SPECULATION

**Mr Laughren:** I have a petition signed by over 3,600 individuals from the Affordable Housing Action Group. I wish the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) was in his seat to hear this.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Given that property speculation in Ontario has contributed to driving up the cost of home ownership, to increasing the cost of building nonprofit housing, and to rent increases for tenants because speculators are rewarded under the provincial government's rent review law, we demand that the government of Ontario impose a tax on the capital gain on nonprincipal residences and land, so that:

"100 per cent of the profit is taxed away on resales within one year;

"75 per cent of the profit is taxed away on resales within two years;

"50 per cent of the profit is taxed away on resales within three years;

"25 per cent of the profit is taxed away on resales within four years."

There are over 3,600 signatures to this, and I wish that the House leader had been listening so he could pass the word on to the Treasurer.

## LAND TRANSFER TAX

**Mr Matrundola:** I rise to present a petition signed by some 4,620 residents of Metropolitan Toronto and surrounding area. About 80 per cent of them are real estate practitioners and members of the Toronto Real Estate Board—the largest real estate board in the world—and the rest are home owners or prospective home owners.

These people are concerned that there might be an increase in land transfer tax in the upcoming budget. In the event that the land transfer tax would be increased, it would punish the home buyers.

The petition is addressed to Premier David Peterson and reads:

"Don't increase the land transfer tax and punish home buyers!"

The vice-president of the Toronto Real Estate Board, Mr Peter Saccoia, is now in the members'

gallery. He has signed a petition with some other 4,620 coupons I have here and am presenting to the Legislature; and I subscribe to it myself. I have the coupons here.

**Mr Brandt:** This is one of the few times in this House I will agree with the member opposite. My petition is:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas on February 17, in the Toronto Star, Treasurer Bob Nixon suggested tax changes, including 'increasing the land transfer tax;' and

"Whereas that will be the second time the Liberal government of Premier David Peterson has increased the land transfer tax, these taxes have risen by 300 per cent since 1985; and

"Whereas property owners will pay over \$560 million in land transfer taxes this year;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government of Premier David Peterson to stop punishing people who contribute to the economy\$ David Peterson, don't even think of raising the land transfer tax again!"

These petition cards have been collected by the Sarnia Lambton Real Estate Board, and the petition has not only my support, but it also has my signature.

#### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr Hampton:** I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to 31 May 1982 have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"The proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

This petition has been signed by 41 former teachers from across northwestern Ontario, and I have affixed my signature to it as well.

#### HOME CARE

**Mr Tatham:** I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We support the expansion of home care and visiting nurses services as the most cost-efficient mode of health care delivery. We therefore want our government to adequately fund the Victorian Order of Nurses."

It is signed by 367 fine citizens plus yours truly, Charlie Tatham.

#### LAND TRANSFER TAX

**Mr Jackson:** I, too, have a petition today:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas on February 17, in the Toronto Star, Treasurer Bob Nixon suggested tax changes, including 'increasing the land transfer tax;' and

"Whereas that will be the second time the Liberal government of Premier David Peterson has increased the land transfer tax, these taxes have risen by 300 per cent since 1985; and

"Whereas property owners will pay over \$560 million in land transfer taxes this year;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government of Premier David Peterson to stop punishing people who contribute to the economy\$ David Peterson, don't even think of raising the land transfer tax again!"

These petition cards have been collected by the Metropolitan Hamilton Real Estate Board. The petitions have my support and my signature.

#### WASTE DISPOSAL

**Mrs Stoner:** I have two petitions today. The first one is signed by 732 residents of the Pickering-Ajax area, and it reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To request that the Premier and government of Ontario withdraw immediately the P1 site located on provincially owned land in the town of Pickering as a proposed new mega dump site for Metropolitan Toronto; and

"To urge that Metro Toronto never again be permitted to locate garbage dumps any where in Durham Region; and further

"To urge that whenever a site or sites are chosen either as contingency or long-term dump sites any where in the region of Durham or in the province of Ontario, the people always be granted their full and complete environmental rights and safeguards according to the Environmental Assessment Act processes."

I have signed that.

1520

I have a petition that is signed by 52 residents of my riding, and it reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We request that Premier David Peterson and Minister of the Environment Jim Bradley guarantee that any proposal for a solid waste landfill in the region of Durham be subject to a full environmental assessment under the provisions of the Environmental Assessment Act; and further

"That the Minister of the Environment not utilize the less restrictive provisions of the Environmental Protection Act to convene a hearing before the Environmental Assessment Board with regard to the said proposal and thereby bypass the provisions of the Environmental Assessment Act and a full environmental assessment."

#### LAND TRANSFER TAX

**Mr Harris:** I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas on February 17, in the Toronto Star, Treasurer Bob Nixon suggested tax changes, including 'increasing the land transfer tax;' and

"Whereas that will be the second time the Liberal government of Premier David Peterson has increased the land transfer tax, these taxes have risen by 300 per cent since 1985; and

"Whereas property tax owners will pay over \$560 million in land transfer taxes this year;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government of Premier David Peterson to stop punishing people who contribute to the economy\$ David Peterson, don't even think of raising the land transfer tax again!"

These petition cards have been collected by the North Bay Real Estate Board. The petition has my support and signature.

#### HOME CARE

**Mrs Sullivan:** I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas problem areas of visiting homemakers' wages and benefits, homemaker training standards and resources, the rate-setting process-

es and structures; all these were identified by the interministerial committee on visiting homemaker services for nonprofit organizations; and

"Whereas no action has been taken by this government to rectify these problems; therefore

"We urge this government to act immediately on the implementation of a responsive and flexible system of nonprofit visiting homemaker service in Ontario, responding to the recommendations outlined in the interministerial report, including any necessary revisions to legislation."

This petition is presented by 40 members of the Canadian Red Cross Society in Oakville. I have affixed my signature.

#### LAND TRANSFER TAX

**Mr Sterling:** Before I proceed, I would just like to recognize a former colleague and former Speaker of the House, Mr Stokes, who just entered the Chamber. I am sure that if Mr Stokes were down here he would agree with us as well.

I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows: ...

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government of Premier David Peterson to stop punishing people who contribute to the economy\$ David Peterson, don't even think of raising the land transfer tax again!"

These petition cards have been collected by the Ottawa-Carleton Real Estate Board. They have my support and signature.

**Mr Villeneuve:** I, too, have a petition addressed:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas on February 17, in the Toronto Star, Treasurer Bob Nixon suggested tax changes, including 'increasing the land transfer tax;' and

"Whereas that will be the second time the Liberal government of Premier David Peterson has increased the land transfer tax, these taxes have risen by 300 per cent by 1985; and

"Whereas property owners will pay over \$560 million in land transfer taxes this year;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government of Premier David Peterson to stop punishing people who contribute to the economy\$ David Peterson, don't even think of raising the land transfer tax again!"

These petition cards have been collected by the Cornwall and District Real Estate Board. The

petition has my support and signature, and it is supported by 61 real estate people and brokers from the Cornwall area.

**Mr J. M. Johnson:** "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas on February 17, in the Toronto Star, Treasurer Bob Nixon suggested tax changes, including 'increasing the land transfer tax;' and

"Whereas that will be the second time the Liberal government of Premier David Peterson has increased the land transfer tax, these taxes have risen by 300 per cent since 1985; and

"Whereas property owners will pay over \$560 million in land transfer taxes this year;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government of Premier David Peterson to stop punishing people who contribute to the economy\$ David Peterson, don't even think of raising the land transfer tax again!"

Can the minister see that?

These petition cards have been collected by the real estate boards in the county of Wellington. The petition has my support and signature.

**Mr McLean:** I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas on February 17, in the Toronto Star, Treasurer Bob Nixon suggested tax changes, including 'increasing the land transfer tax;' and

"Whereas that will be the second time the Liberal government of Premier David Peterson has increased the land transfer tax, these taxes have risen by 300 per cent since 1985; and

"Whereas property owners will pay over \$560 million in land transfer taxes this year;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government of Premier David Peterson to stop punishing people who contribute to the economy\$ David Peterson, don't even think of raising the land transfer tax again!"

These petition cards have been collected by the Orillia and District Real Estate Board. The petition has my support and signature.

**Mr McCague:** I hope the message is getting through.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario, as follows:

"Whereas on February 17, in the Toronto Star, Treasurer Bob Nixon suggested tax changes, including 'increasing the land transfer tax;' and

"Whereas that will be the second time the Liberal government of Premier David Peterson has increased the land transfer tax, these taxes have risen by 300 per cent since 1985; and

"Whereas property owners will pay over \$560 million in land transfer taxes this year;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government of Premier David Peterson to stop punishing people who contribute to the economy\$ David Peterson, don't even think of raising the land transfer tax again!"

That is what the sign says.

These cards have been collected by the Collingwood and District Real Estate Board. I have signed my name and certainly support the petition.

**Mr Pollock:** I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas on February 17, in the Toronto Star, Treasurer Bob Nixon suggested tax changes, including 'increasing the land transfer tax;' and

"Whereas that will be the second time the Liberal government of Premier David Peterson has increased the land transfer tax, these taxes have risen by 300 per cent since 1985; and

"Whereas property owners will pay over \$560 million in land transfer taxes this year;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government of Premier David Peterson to stop punishing people who contribute to the economy\$ David Peterson, don't even think of raising the land transfer tax again!"

These petition cards have been collected by the Peterborough Real Estate Board. The petition has been supported by myself and it has my signature.

**The Speaker:** This may be the appropriate time to say that my mother watches this every day and she wonders why the cards are put up every day. She is only 91.

1530

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### ONTARIO ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS ACT, 1989

Mrs Grier moved first reading of Bill 12, An Act respecting Environmental Rights in Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

**Mrs Grier:** This is an updated and revised version of an earlier environmental bill of rights that has received second reading by this House. It is legislation to ensure that the people of Ontario

have an ability to participate in environmental decision-making and can protect their common interests in a healthy and sustainable environment.

#### PLANNING AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

Mr R. F. Johnston moved first reading of Bill 14, An Act to amend the Planning Act, 1983.

Motion agreed to.

**The Speaker:** Does the member have an explanation?

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** My explanation—adding that this is the third time I have introduced this for the first time—is that I thought it would be appropriate today to bring in my two bills around nuclear-weapons-free Ontario implementation. As members will remember, in 1986 we passed a motion overwhelmingly in this House to make Ontario a nuclear-weapons-free zone. These two bills—this is the first one, amending the Planning Act—deal with that. I thought it was appropriate to do it today, as the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology has admitted that we are now spending—

**The Speaker:** Order. I appreciate the member's words. However, we are not debating the bill at the moment. We are just introducing it. New bill?

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** Absolutely, there is another one and I will certainly be able to manage to slip in the rest of the sentence.

#### NUCLEAR WEAPONS ECONOMIC CONVERSION ACT, 1989

Mr R. F. Johnston moved first reading of Bill 16, An Act to provide for the Conversion of Technologies and Skills used in the Nuclear Weapons Industry to Civilian Uses.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** The point of this bill is to convert industries from production of arms to production of useful civilian kinds of products; instead of promoting defence companies and arms production that we have in the province and participating in ARMX merchant-of-death-style conferences.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

**Hon Mr Conway:** Before the debate proceeds, I might indicate that by agreement of House Leaders and whips, we are going to conclude the debate and take the votes associated with this item of business later this afternoon. It is thereby agreed, as among House leaders and whips, that the windup speeches will be shared equally in units of 30 minutes by each of the three windup speakers, beginning at approximately 1615 and concluding at 1745 this afternoon.

**The Speaker:** Is there unanimous agreement the vote shall be taken at 1745?

Agreed to.

**Miss Nicholas:** It is with great delight that I have an opportunity to speak on the throne speech today. I feel like an episode of Dallas, where every week they recount what happened last week so you can refresh your memory.

Since I started this participation in the debate about this time last week, I thought it appropriate that maybe I recap just a few of the things I highlighted. I first said what a fascinating, thorough, interesting, informative and fully supported throne speech we had delivered by the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor just a few weeks ago.

Some highlights I went into were on economic development. I talked about how important it is to have on-the-job training, and I welcomed that in the throne speech we did make mention of on-the-job training. Many people would like to move up within their companies, but cannot unless they are provided with some training on the job to move up, because they cannot quit their jobs for other educational endeavours, or they cannot take time away from work to learn because they need the income from their jobs. This is providing on-the-job training and I encourage many companies that are not already participating in this to participate even more fully.

Then I talked about our education initiatives. While I would not want to go over all I said, I did give my personal experiences with education and my full support for the fact we are now going to help everybody in the education system. We are not just going to address those who learn easily or those who perhaps need a little remedial education. Everybody will have entitlement to quality education. I think it is so important and good that we set out a good proposal for how education will go in the next few years.

I had just come to the social assistance aspect of the throne speech. I was just beginning with that and I was commenting how important it is that we give people the opportunity to move from

dependence to self-reliance. I commented how last year there was an increasing need for social assistance in Ontario and how important it is that we address this problem of social assistance, and that many, many people want to get off social assistance and go out to work and how we can help and best assist this process.

One of the things I have had the opportunity to do since I have been the member for Scarborough Centre is to visit a lot of our Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority units. I have some 2,050 units in my riding, quite a number, and I have had the pleasure of being able to go there and participate in the many functions they have, but I think it is more important to understand that so many people really do want to get out into the workforce, but feel somewhat held back by our current social assistance system.

One of the things I had particular joy in doing was joining the breakfast clubs that are held at the MTHA units. One I had with Gordonridge, at the opening of their breakfast clubs. Some 40 children attended that morning and I gather that about 35 to 40 attend on a daily basis. They enjoy a full breakfast for 25 cents, or if they are unable to afford 25 cents, even less than that. It ensures these children go to school with a tummy that is full. It may seem very rudimentary to have a full tummy, but it has been learned that many children are not able to learn at school because they are so hungry their minds cannot concentrate on the work before them during their school day.

I think it is important we do that. One of the places I had to go just last Friday was 400 McCowan Road, another unit that has a well-established breakfast club. Those children were just full of enthusiasm in the morning. They were able to have a full breakfast and go off to school healthy, happy and ready to learn. I wish this could be offered to people outside the units. I know some schools do provide lunches or breakfasts to ensure their children are not hungry when they go to school.

I think this is a great step forward; however, would it not be greater if they had the ability to be able to be provided breakfasts in their own homes each and every day? I think it is very important we recognize there are great projects going on, but would it not be better if we could revamp social assistance programs in some way so that all these people would be able to have a breakfast in their own home and not go to school hungry?

**1540**

One of the things the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr Faubert) and I put on in April

was a forum for our constituents, and in fact constituents of Scarborough, to come before us and make presentations on how they felt about Transitions, the report of the Social Assistance Review Committee.

We had the honour of having the member for Kitchener (Mr D. R. Cooke) attend as well. He chaired the standing committee on finance and economic affairs. That committee supported wholeheartedly the Transitions report and in its prebudget committee report suggested to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney) that he say yes. That is what they said; they said yes to this report and suggested to the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) that we support this wholly.

I was very happy to see it was in the throne speech. I just want to reflect on one or two of the submissions that were made that day. One of them was that of a woman who really did want to go out and work, and she did go out and work. She worked hard for long hours, and the way our social assistance system is now, she ended up at the end of the month losing \$10 because she went out and worked. I think Transitions addresses this very deep concern that there is no incentive for people to go out and work. In fact, they end up losing money. It is not sufficient money to raise their families. I think that is the most important part. If they do go out and work, they do not have enough food and will not be able to afford a home for their children.

One of the things that was very important to them too was the availability of subsidized day care, because if they did not have somewhere to put their children during the day or they could not afford it, again, there was no incentive for them to go out and work.

One of the things I think was important was they felt that when their children got to five years of age and were in the school system and they were able to go out and work, they had not worked for five, six or seven years and they were unqualified to participate in a job career. So at least they felt it was important that they continue working in the first five years of their children's lives so they would be able to continue working and not lose the ability to be qualified to participate in the job that perhaps they had been trained for, but that could change so much in that time that they would no longer be in demand.

I think these people sometimes need a boost, and that is what the throne speech said. We are going to give them a boost. We are going to change their welfare cheques into paycheques. Some people really do want to work, and the

member for Scarborough-Ellesmere and myself understood that there is a great percentage of people who would work if they could afford to work.

There are some people who cannot work and never will be able to do so. They are disabled and they are ill. They cannot be self-sufficient and our social assistance will always look after them. I think it addresses the concern of many people who would love to go out and work, but they just need a little boost. I am very pleased the throne speech addressed this problem, and that the minister responsible for social assistance is here in the House today to hear that my constituents and in fact those of many from Scarborough are fully in support of the implementation of the Transitions report.

The next area the throne speech dealt with was "safe and secure communities." I think many, many people believe Toronto, Ontario is very safe. I know people in Scarborough have always felt how important it is that they can take a walk in the evening with their dogs, their spouses, their friends or just by themselves and have no worries that they will be attacked or approached in any violent way. I think it is very important we address this as one of the things all Ontarians believe to be a basic need in our community.

One of the areas that was highlighted was an antidrug strategy. It aimed at education and prevention programs, and these would include primary and secondary students, in those grades. You say to yourself, "Is that too early, primary students, to be taught about antidrug strategies?" I would say it is not too early.

The problem is that a lot of people are getting into drugs at 11 and 12 years of age, or even earlier, and I think the earlier we can tell them the horrors of having drugs, the better it will be. I think we should start very young, before it is too late.

I think we have to plan a wider range of treatment programs. Currently, the programs that are available are overworked. I had a constituent of mine who called the available programs and it took us some time before we could find some spot for his son to have a drug treatment program. We need some help. We need a wider range of programs. We have to recognize that there are a lot of people who have drug dependencies and are looking for help but it is not available.

The other area is alcohol abuse. I think this is a particularly important area to address, because while drugs may in most cases be illegal to obtain, alcohol is something we can get at the

Liquor Control Board of Ontario throughout Ontario, and probably on most corners in Scarborough. It is something that can be very dangerous if abused.

It affects our health. It can affect our family life when someone is an alcohol abuser and he is unable to devote the same amount of time to his family as he would otherwise. I think there are a lot of groups that have recognized how dangerous alcohol abuse can be, in particular People to Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere. Ten 10 years ago people thought nothing of driving after they had had a few too many drinks. In the last decade, with the enforcement the Ministry of the Solicitor General has put on drunk drivers and the Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere program, I think people have become more and more aware of how important it is that people who drink should not drive, and that in fact it could be affecting their work and their social life.

The other area that was of particular importance to me, and one I fully support, is the one directed against violence against women and children and directed at the need to address this growing problem.

I had the opportunity this past weekend to attend an event put on by the Huron County Community Child Abuse Co-ordinating Committee. They had a Teddy bear dream auction and raffle. It was to raise money for their group, which deals with and provides programs for victims of child abuse. It not only addresses the victims; it also tries to rehabilitate the abusers. Here was an excellent example of community efforts to try to help with the problem of child abuse that is going on in many homes across Ontario.

The unique thing this committee does is that it has puppet presentations that go to schools and talk about child abuse. Apparently, right after some of these puppet presentations, the children then disclose that they have been abused by their parents. They tell these puppets more than they would tell adults, because they are intimidated to tell adults, so it has been a very effective program.

They provide information about positive parenting to parents and they try to increase the level of expertise and co-ordination of the local people in dealing with child abuse. I think we can all be aware of child abuse, diagnose it and be of some assistance in preventing it.

I think our knowledge of child abuse has changed dramatically over the last few decades. I think many people felt that if you had a socioeconomic base as to whether you were a

child abuser or not, it could not happen in rich homes; it could only happen in poor families. Now we realize that child abuse can occur at all levels of socioeconomic prosperity and I think that is an important first step we did.

The second is that it is out of the closet. We recognize it does occur. It is in the open. We see it in our newspapers and on television, and that was something that did not happen even a decade ago. I think sometimes acknowledging that there is a problem is a big step forward in trying to prevent future abuse.

The statistics we are hearing are very grim. In some one in every five Canadian homes, a child is being beaten, slapped, scalded, kicked, sexually abused or neglected. I think we will all agree that this is a tragedy, that we have to break this cycle of violence, that we have to deal with it, that we have to rehabilitate abusers so that abusers do not continue to abuse. More important, it has been suggested that the child who has been abused will one day become an abuser too, so it is important that we provide programs, that we stop this cycle of violence that is occurring in families and that we provide the necessary programs to prevent it.

I think the example of the Huron County Child Abuse Co-ordinating Committee is an excellent one of how volunteers and the community at large can assist in trying to prevent child abuse.

#### 1550

The one other thing we did address in the throne speech was the Young Offenders Act. Many people from my community understand that it is important that young children who have a criminal charge against them not be scarred for life for stealing something from their local drugstore or confectionery store, but that they have an opportunity after they are 18 to go out without a criminal record, if it was a one-time occurrence, and not be scarred for life in their ability to obtain a job; that they should be able to function fully in the community.

But many people from my community have also expressed how concerned they are that the Young Offenders Act as it is presently provides for 16- or 17-year-olds to commit such a dastardly act as murder and be out in three years. I think it was important that the government urge the federal government to make amendments to the Young Offenders Act. I hope we continue to try to assert this position so that the federal government sees it as a top priority to make amendments to this act.

The next area I thought was just so fitting, given what has happened in the last year to me

and my family, is health and the importance of health care, the importance of having access to quality health care for everybody in Ontario regardless of ability to pay. The idea of health promotion and disease prevention is one we have been trying to stress for many years.

The federal government has offered the idea of Participaction to try to get people out there participating, taking a 15-minute walk or trying to do some kind of health promotion. I think we all have to address this, that we have to think about things we can do to keep us fit and full of energy so that we are not using the health care system more than we have to; but that when we do have to use the health care system, it is there and it is providing accessible, affordable and appropriate health services for everyone. I am fully behind this. I am committed to it and I am pleased that special mention was made of it in the throne speech.

I have had special links with the health care system. My mom is a nurse and has been for about 34 years. She has worked very hard to ensure that proper patient care is occurring at Scarborough General Hospital. Many of her colleagues are ensuring that that is going on as well. We are very proud of the hospital which services my riding on a daily basis. My family has used it a number of times ourselves. My father had cancer in 1971 and Dr Dobson operated on him at that time.

We have to remember that in 1971 cancer was not as well known to us as it is today. Today it is hitting almost every family in Canada, or a relative is being struck by cancer at some time, but in 1971 it was less known and there was less chance of survival. I am here to tell you that my father is still strong and doing well.

Having said that, he had an aneurysm removed from his aorta just two weeks ago, and again that was done at Scarborough General Hospital. There was terrific surgery that went on. He is on the road to recovery and is quite pleased with the service he received at Scarborough General Hospital. The emergency, the intensive care unit, the rooms—Everybody provided him with excellent health care. I am pleased with and proud of the hospital we have in Scarborough, along with our other hospitals, but I have had particularly close dealings with Scarborough General Hospital.

Having said that, we hear a lot about people who are unable to use a hospital in their area and who have to travel to another hospital to have health service provided. I had hoped to have my baby just seven months ago at Scarborough

General Hospital. In fact, I was admitted there by my doctor, Dr Linkenheil, and had hoped to have my baby there, but when it was found out that my child would be about two pounds when she was born, Dr Linkenheil, who had been trained in neonatal birth, made the decision that it would be best that I travel to Mount Sinai Hospital and have my child there, because it has a neonatal and intensive care unit and the facilities to be able to give the proper health care to a two-pound child.

So I transferred to Mount Sinai, and while I am disappointed, perhaps, that it could not have been done at Scarborough General Hospital, I think we have to recognize that these neonatal intensive care units take a great deal of knowledge, staff and facilities and it is unrealistic to maintain them in 222 hospitals across Ontario. It is more important we provide it at some key locations so we can put more beds in each one and we can try to provide this service to those who need it.

I was very lucky, though. I had my baby before the quads were born just three days later, or else there probably would not have been room for Leahanne there and I may have had to go to yet another hospital, but probably not much farther away.

They have an excellent system there and I am pleased to see in the throne speech debate that we are providing assistance to infants. Mount Sinai has two operating rooms and a little room in between that has four paediatricians waiting for this child to come in. Their sole responsibility is to concentrate their efforts, in the first few minutes of that child's birth, on making it breathe and trying to give it medical attention that will allow the child to live a full and prosperous life. I was very thankful for the paediatricians who looked after Leahanne and I am pleased to see that we made an ongoing commitment to providing this kind of service.

The next area we did deal with was the environment. The environment has been given a lot of attention, I think, over the last few days. In fact, that is why my speech has taken one week to finish, because in the intervening time we had a great deal of debate in this Legislature over environment and the government's commitment to a clean and safe environment, to the air, water and to our food.

As many members know, the Scarborough Bluffs are in the riding of Scarborough Centre; that is the southern part of my riding. I am very proud of it. It is a very picturesque area. It is an area where many can go down to the beach on Lake Ontario and enjoy a Sunday afternoon—in

fact, on any day of the week—and have full access to the lake and parks on the edge of the lake.

I think it is always important that water be swimmable, fishable and drinkable at all times. We always talk about reducing, reusing and recycling. I am pleased Scarborough finally is coming on board in its recycling program. I believe June is the date for starting recycling in Scarborough. I can only say I wish it could have started sooner, but I am pleased it is about to come under way. I know I get enough calls from my constituents wondering when we are ever going to get our blue boxes. While our boxes may not be blue—they may be yellow or some other colour; they have not decided—we will have a box that is used for recycling.

I remember I contributed to a forum on energy; it was an attempt to get business to try to reduce electricity and water use so that we can have more for the future. I remember trying to suggest to them that they should do what my husband and I thought was our contribution to reducing the use of water, and that was showering together. They have reminded me of that ever since, that that was a good suggestion to pursue, but now that we have a baby and a dog it makes it a little more difficult.

This throne speech suggests educational programs so that students get a greater sense of personal responsibility for environmental protection. This week in Scarborough is the start of Environment Week, and I have the opportunity on Thursday to give out environment awards to students for their recognition of how important it is.

I think last year's "Clean and green" was a very interesting slogan we had to clean up Scarborough. In fact, in the pitch-in part of it, 60 schools participated. They went through the Rouge Valley and collected garbage. They made their contribution and increased their awareness of the necessity for us to clean our areas.

#### 1600

The other area was the "green," where the Ministry of Natural Resources has provided 30,000 trees per year for planting in Scarborough. I just want the members to reflect for a moment on how green Scarborough is going to look after 10 years with these added trees.

We had 60 schools participate last year. This year there are even more schools participating in the pitch-in. It has been overwhelming.

I think it is important that we continue to sensitize our young people to how important the environment is. We have been doing that. The school boards have been trying to make sensitiz-

ing them an important priority within their systems, but I think it is important that we do it each and every day. We, as adults, could become even more aware ourselves, because we are very fortunate that our children are probably coming home and telling us what they are doing and how important it is to be aware of the environment; that it is our future and it is necessary that we keep it clean, and that our air, food and water be usable for the rest of our lives.

I would like to say that this throne speech builds a better future for all of our children. It provides for the basic learning skills. I think it is necessary that all of us, no matter what our economic background, have access to learning. Then we can make our own decision whether we use that as well as we might.

Contrary to those who have mentioned that this throne speech does not contain a lot, I think it is indeed very focused. When I look over it, I think it would be impractical or very difficult for any of us to speak on every portion of the throne speech that was presented and to delve into any one area in any great depth, but I can tell the members that the constituents from Scarborough Centre will be benefited by many things that are in this throne speech. I think it is important that we try to work on these programs as best we can over the next year to try and implement them. I look forward to hearing the ministers' statements on a daily basis, addressing each one of the different presentations, the different promises, that were made in the throne speech, and I am proud to be part of the government that is putting forward such a good agenda. I look forward to it unfolding.

In closing, I just want to say that I will try not to take a week for my next speech. Indeed, it has probably been one of the longest speeches in the Legislature, and I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to participate.

**Mr Neumann:** I would just rise briefly to commend the member for Scarborough Centre for her very fine speech outlining the benefits of the speech from the throne and the programs which will flow from it and how they affect her riding of Scarborough Centre.

I find it very interesting listening to the members in this House outlining how these programs are benefiting so many different areas across our province. I was particularly interested in the comments she made on the environment and the tree plantings which are taking place in Scarborough. It is certainly a very worthy objective.

In our community, a number of organizations have banded together to put together similar projects, and these projects will benefit people for many years to come.

Again, I would like to commend the member for her very fine speech. It is obvious that Scarborough Centre is benefiting greatly from her wise leadership and representation.

**Miss Nicholas:** I just wanted to say that I appreciate how good some of these programs are and I am glad that Scarborough Centre, as well as all ridings, will have an opportunity to participate in this.

One thing I did not reflect on was the approach by the member for Brantford (Mr Neumann) to this throne speech. I just want to reflect, given that the wrapup will occur in a few minutes, that he mentioned VCR: vision, commitment and results.

I think that is exactly what this has done, and the people of Scarborough should be commended for their environmental awareness. I know it has affected each one of our communities, the environment, but as my community is on the lake and Scarborough has the Rouge Valley, which is an issue that is becoming province-wide, acknowledged as an environmental issue and a concern for all of us, then I am particularly responsive to the throne speech commitment to environment. I just want to say that I am proud to represent Scarborough Centre, and I am proud that these programs will profit all of my constituents. I thank the members and the member for Brantford for his kind comments.

**Mr Villeneuve:** I want to first thank the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr Charlton) for so graciously allowing me a few minutes just before wrapup to get some items on the record, particularly as they pertain to agriculture and the lack of mention agriculture had during the speech from the throne. I thank him very much.

It is rather ironic that the budget will be forthcoming on the 17th of this month, actually this Wednesday, and that is the day before the final deadline for application for the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program, which has been totally wound down by the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr Riddell). The OFFIRR program has been a very well-received program, a very needed program throughout rural Ontario, and I certainly hope that on the 17th, on Wednesday of this week, the budget will include some form of replacement of the OFFIRR program.

I am pleased to see the minister in his place here this afternoon. We have to remember that

the OFFIRR program was brought in when interest rates were considerably lower than they are right now. They were below 10 per cent; we now have a prime rate that is over 13 per cent. Agriculture is faced with an anticipated 18 per cent reduction in net income in 1989. Yet the OFFIRR program is being phased out totally and indeed is only providing 40 per cent of the benefits in the year 1988 that it had provided in previous years; the interest rates are considerably higher now than they have been at any other time during the lifespan of the OFFIRR program.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food in the last two years has budgeted funds for a number of programs. However, in the last two years some \$50 million of targeted and budgeted funds to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has not been used within that ministry. I think it says something to the fact that agriculture and food seems to have been relegated to a rather low profile by this government.

Certainly, agriculture and food is the backbone of Ontario's economy as we get away from the downtown Metropolitan Toronto area. Agriculture and food provides well over 20 per cent of all jobs within Ontario both directly and indirectly. Less than three per cent of the population in this province are farmers, yet they provide sufficient foodstuffs and commodities for large exports. We cannot in any way, shape or form belittle the many good things that are provided to this province and to the people of this province by the farmers in this province.

It is rather ironic that the tobacco tax received by this government last year was some \$680 million, yet the entire budget for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is a shade under \$500 million spent. I think that says something. It says something rather negative about the profile the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has, relating to this government.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture is very concerned about a number of possible scenarios. One of them is the very real possibility, after discussion with both the Minister of Agriculture and Food and the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) of this province, that the farm tax reduction program may be altered, and it may well be altered without Agriculture and Food and without the farmers having a great deal of input. I certainly hope that is not the case. However, the message that was left by the Treasurer when he discussed this particular problem and scenario with representatives of the federation of agriculture left them all wondering exactly what the plans of this government are.

## 1610

As members know, this very important program was brought in simply to try to provide some equity within the funding of our school system. The school system is most important and certainly I, as a member of the select committee on education, am looking at ways to fundamentally change the way school taxes are assessed and collected.

When one considers agriculture, because of the nature of the industry where you need buildings and a large land base in many instances, and of course these are all taxed, I think the only equitable position was to reimburse the farmers who pay the taxes for that portion which is school tax. Certainly there have been some improvements made to that. This program was initiated quite a number of years ago and it is one that has benefited all of agriculture. The fact that some \$165 million is returned on an annual basis to Ontario's farmers says a great deal about the importance of that particular program.

Again based on the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's presentation recently to cabinet, to the Minister of Agriculture and Food and to all political parties, they are very concerned about the farm debt and farm income situation. Again, as I said about the OFFIRR program, we have had no new programs initiated recently that would be all-encompassing, that would assist in providing some financial support to an industry that has been struggling.

Recently we have had some General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade decisions that have many of the supply-managed commodity groups very concerned. I know I will be meeting with a number of our dairy producers. I think the GATT decisions have to be worked at in a very diligent way and I was quite disappointed whenever the Minister of Agriculture and Food told us, on many occasions, that the food processing industry was one that could very well suffer tremendous losses because of a number of scenarios, including free trade and including GATT decisions. Yet this government did not put its money where its mouth is and was in providing some support and some endorsement to the food processing industry.

I believe we must monitor the GATT decisions very closely. The dairy industry in particular is very concerned about the decisions that were handed down recently and also about the freeze on the market-sharing subsidy quota which is guaranteed until the end of 1991. It has been

judged as going in opposite directions to what the GATT requirements are.

Certainly we must be hard bargainers and negotiators when we have the European Community basically being the heavyweight at the GATT and having a great deal of input. They are monitoring what is happening here in Canada very closely. I think in many instances they probably know better than many of us do what is happening here.

Certainly they are certainly using their intimate knowledge of our particular system of marketing to their advantage. When they call marketing board supply management a subsidy equivalent or something that is equal to a subsidy equivalent, I think we have to make our position very clear that it is not a subsidy; it is simply ensuring an adequate supply yet not an oversupply. I think it is a system that has served our producers very well and is a system that has to be protected. The recommendations by the federation of agriculture and the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario are very much the same, that the OFFIRR program must be continued. Again, I emphasize the fact that it is ironic that the very deadline for the OFFIRR applications for the year 1988 is the day after the Treasurer will be presenting his budget in this Legislature on 17 May, this week.

In closing—I realize that we have to start windup at 4:15—agriculture and eastern Ontario were totally overlooked.

I appreciate the fact that the Ministry of the Environment will be looking at reducing the pollution emitted by car exhaust. Certainly I have on a number of occasions suggested to the Minister of Agriculture and Food, and he is well aware of it, that we can provide clean octane enhancers derived from the production of grain alcohol. It is something that would be safe to our environment and it would contribute to saving our ozone layer.

In a situation we have had even this year and certainly last year during the heat of the summer, when the pollution index count here in the city of Toronto was almost intolerable, the Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley) suggested at one point that he would even consider limiting the number of vehicles in this city. I think that says it all in a nutshell.

It is a situation that must be addressed, and agriculture can and certainly will be the saviour in this particular area. I think we have to get on it much quicker than the year 2000. It is an imminent problem, a problem that is with us

now, and agriculture has the wherewithal, has the product to provide the solution.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr M. C. Ray):** As agreed between the parties, we will now proceed to the windup speeches, beginning first with the third party.

**Mrs Cunningham:** It gives me some degree of encouragement to see this democratic process operate the way it does and for all of us to have had an opportunity to talk to the speech from the throne. I suppose it was for me the first throne speech and I suppose I should say I was more disappointed in what was not in the speech. I would like to speak a little bit about that today.

I think the positive things I will say will probably be somewhat limited, because as I said before, really the announcements in that speech had a lot to do with some of the broken Liberal promises. If the speech in fact is going to be one that is encouraging the government to move forward and fix things that have been broken for so long, then the public should feel somewhat enlightened and encouraged by that speech. That is the most positive thing I can say.

I think the focus on building a better future for our children gives a public perception of action. I hope this government has taken the time to realistically think through the planning, the programming and the funding that will be necessary in order to really see these promises, which appeared once again in this speech, become a reality.

Therefore, even today as we were chatting about some of the public announcements, my heart goes out to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney), because I think he is truly committed to the programs his government has promised. What I hope is that on Wednesday of this week, we will see the commitment from the other members of the government who seem to have some very strong opinions and a lot of clout in decision-making to give him the kind of resources he needs in order to make the programs that are extremely needed in this community a reality.

I can speak now about such things as child care. I can speak now about what we were talking about today, pay differentials. We were talking about lack of funding and support staff in institutions for the disabled, in community resource allocations for the disabled; talking about group homes where families have been able, through a lot of sheer hard work, dedication and pure love for their children, to keep them home for a very long period of time. Certainly all of us in this House support that approach, but one

cannot just make those kinds of promises without putting the commitment, the supports, in there behind.

That is not to say that there is not a tradeoff which this government can make. If we are taking a look at just one of the small tradeoffs that would be, I think, realistic for the government, we should be looking not only at the size of the civil service, and I have said this before, but the efficiency of the bureaucracy should be looked at. The frontline workers are what we are here to talk about. That is who we need first.

So if this government in this throne speech again makes these promises, and I am talking about services for children, it is going to have to look at efficiency within its own management and it is going to have to look at the numbers.

I think the public knows that over the period of 1985 to 1988, the size of the civil service increased by 6,884 positions or by 8.6 per cent. Really, it is not always a matter of having more people to do the work; it is a matter of having good people, who are well trained, who will make the commitment to get the education. I am now talking about working with children. Then those people are usually dedicated and will do the work.

**1620**

What is so discouraging is to watch others around them who are not as committed, who have not had the opportunity for training. Quite frankly, in many of our facilities right now, whether they be group homes or schools or hospitals, we often have to get people who wish they had more training and who we wish had more training, just to hire them, because we have this terrific turnover rate in our institutions.

Therefore, families who are looking for support for their young people are very disillusioned and very concerned. Many families are worried about what is going to happen to their disabled family members whom they have to leave in our trust. They are wondering what is going to happen when they are no longer there to be the watchdogs.

I am not just talking about the disabled. I am talking about young people who are in trouble with the law. I am talking about young people who are troubled because this world happens to be a very, very challenging place to live in for many people who have not been blessed with some of the resources and the intelligence and perhaps the good health that some of the rest of us have.

I was very concerned about some of the things that were missing in the throne speech, but I am

even more concerned about the commitment. We will all be watching very carefully on Wednesday as we see just what kinds of resources will be given, especially to the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

There was no mention of immediate measures to deal with the waste management crisis, no assistance for farmers still experiencing dire financial problems and no talk about the need to improve Ontario's deteriorating infrastructure. Just take a look at driving along the highways nowadays.

The housing crisis is ignored: literally ignored, not even referred to. If we are talking about people we should be concerned about in this wonderful province of Ontario, I would have thought one of the very first priorities of that speech would have been to clarify the housing crisis and at least to announce that the public of Ontario could be looking forward to a plan of action for housing.

The plan has been announced, but most people in the community, and certainly in the community I represent, do not recognize the so-called housing plan as a plan. In fact, it is not. What we are looking for is a plan that talks very clearly to the public of Ontario about who is going to provide affordable housing for people who cannot afford it, who is going to deal with young people today when we take a look at—

**Mr Faubert:** Who do you want? Do you want the government to do it?

**Mrs Cunningham:** No, but my friend does. This government has said: "We will provide money to nonprofit groups. We will back nonprofit groups." In fact, in the city of London—and the member from Middlesex (Mr Reycraft) knows all about this issue—we have some 400 new housing units approved, and I cannot even find out where they are. They are on paper. We have approved them. We have approved the groups but we have not approved the location, and the government should be—

Interjection.

**Mrs Cunningham:** The groups do not have their sites. That is a fact. Out of the 10 new sites, I was only able to find some four sites. Imagine saying to a group: "Look, you can build 80 new units or 16 new units. Pick your spot, but don't spend over \$80,000 per unit." What a panacea.

If you got \$80,000, where is the incentive to build something that is really worth \$80,000? There is none. You could go build something worth \$40,000, \$50,000 or \$60,000. There is no private enterprise there at all, just turning around and saying: "Pick the spot. Put the houses there

and we'll give you \$80,000 without even looking at what you're really talking about."

At the same time as people in London are told that there are 400 units anywhere, they are also being told that 206 units will disappear because this government did not think that units that are now occupied in the centre of our municipality by low-income families, that are affordable housing, are worth saving. But it is worth building 400 new ones where there are no buses, no schools, no support systems, nothing.

That is a very poor decision. If that is an example of a housing policy, I should think this government should go back to the drawing board. Anyway, they can throw it out at me and I will give it to them. I have to live it every day as I represent the people who have elected me, and they are not very pleased at all.

Let's get off housing and let's talk about the disabled who were not even mentioned, or seniors who were not even mentioned in the throne speech. What about the auto insurance fiasco? It is not mentioned in the throne speech.

Do members want to hear what the Premier (Mr Peterson) said about universities not too long ago? I am sure they will all wonder about this one. The throne speech, Ontario, 28 April 1987: "We must compete by putting the most advanced technology in the hands of the best educated and best trained workforce.

"We must compete by becoming more aggressive and skilful at marketing our goods and services to the world....We must compete by bringing together the best minds of industry, labour, universities and government in the development of creative solutions."

What did the government do? Was there public support? Yes, 90 per cent of the public said in a Gallup poll at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education just a year ago that they were willing to put more money in. Government decisions? This is what the Council of Ontario Universities says. They need 10.1 per cent to make this work. What did the government give them? It gave them four per cent in base budgets in 1988-89, and then it gave them another 3.5 per cent for all the extra students it has encouraged to go to the universities because of accessibility policies.

It is very interesting. In capital, the universities are not mentioning it in this speech, which is called *Blueprint for Mediocrity*, a brief presented to the standing committee on finance and economic affairs of the Legislature by the Council of Ontario Universities in March.

It also goes on and talks about this. "A weakened university sector is a more ominous

harbinger of how Canada will fare in free trading with the United States than the more emotionally grounded fear of dominance through an unchecked flow of cultural goods."

It is striking, they say, "in the government's recent decision to close the 22 innovation centres which had been established to promote university and business collaboration, at a time when Canada has just approved the free trade arrangements with the US and is already experiencing factory layoffs and corporate takeovers."

The government chose to close 22 innovation centres. The universities are extremely frustrated at this point. Really and truly, I do not think this government takes the universities seriously at all in regard to the contribution it expects them to make to our economy, to the education of our young people and to our country as a whole.

Really, in *Western News*, August 1985, the Premier said, "Our general approach is that it will become one of the most important areas of public policy." Not mentioned in the throne speech was the four per cent to the basic operating grants. It is taking more students every year and expecting more to be delivered.

What shall we go on to next? The speech is a compilation of secondhand ideas—it truly is—so lacking in direction that it has been reduced to recycling promises it made in the past but has not kept. That is what the throne speech was all about.

Turning to economic development and international trade, once again, the Liberals say they will be continuing, and I quote, because this is one of my portfolios and I know it well, "to provide the leadership" in developing the economy of Ontario—the members know what the universities think of this government—but it gives no indication if this leadership will extend to the management of the province's finances.

In fact, the throne speech gives no hint as to how the Liberals intend to pay for this kinder, gentler, child-friendly Ontario. They are talking about leadership extending to the management of the province's finances. They are talking about being kind, gentle and encouraging our young people. Instead of talking about the positive programs that we should be talking about, they talk about negative programs to help Ontario companies and workers take full advantage of free trade opportunities. The Liberals are offering re-employment assistance after layoffs and plant closures, which is a negative response.

Let me tell the members a little bit—

**Mr Reycraft:** We've got to retrain all those wealthy barracks people. Somebody has to retrain these wealthy barracks people.

**Mrs Cunningham:** The member for Middlesex just loves this part of his job, standing up and heckling his neighbour. It is a darn good thing we like each other.

Here is something for the government on Transitions. Never mind free trade, this is the retraining that is supposed to take place right now. Here is a promise to retrain older workers, aged 45 to 64.

The ministry spent only \$284,000 on Transitions, two per cent of its \$14-million budget a year ago. Otherwise, they said: "Look, this is so important. We want to do it. We're going to spend \$14 million." It spent \$284,000, roughly two per cent.

So last year I was really looking forward to an improvement, and we got an improvement. In the last fiscal year, they should be very proud. They reduced their budget. This is retraining, getting ready for the real world of the economic challenges, being a big player in a big world. They cut their budget from \$14 million to \$8 million and this year spent \$1 million on Transitions. This is a training program.

If they cannot train people now, what are they going to do when people are laid off, when people do have a problem, when the economy does have to adjust? What are they going to do? What are they going to do when the big businesses start asking us to provide workers?

I spent some time on Friday talking to someone in the welding business and heard about the technology. Do members know we do not even have an apprenticeship program for welding, either in its old format or in its new, challenging—They are talking about plastics. We do not even have an apprenticeship program. We do not provide it.

This is a government that is talking about retraining in the past. It is talking about worker adjustments, and we cannot train people now.

In that conversation I had with a number of people from the London and Middlesex community, they were most disappointed about a lack of a training plan. The problem with it, and it is not unlike some of the other ministries, is that this particular ministry has to start from the beginning and look at what it really wants to do. They should be talking to the school systems, so that young people who are bored and do not want to stay in school can be working with their hands part of the time and can be working in the

community part of the time as well as getting an education.

We have been talking about this now for two or three years and even longer. Pilot projects must be going on in this particular government in every school board, but for heaven's sake, make a policy decision that says it is important enough to make it happen.

How do you make it happen if you do not train teachers? We have 140 teachers in our community colleges this year who are being trained in technical education. I have said it before and I will say it again: If a school board were smart, one board would go out and hire all of them.

If you really want kids to stay in school and you really want to talk about training and you really want to get on with what is right in this world, that is what we should be doing. Apprenticeship programs have to take on a new format and a new meaning. Whether they are university graduates or whether they are at the colleges or whether they are in our secondary schools or whether they are in grades 7 and 8 wondering what to do with their lives, we should be talking to young people right now about apprenticeship programs, but not the way we deliver them now, because truly this government has an abysmal record.

Do members know that in the apprenticeship and skilled worker shortages programs we have been asking for a long time now just for an opportunity to train? We have journeymen to apprenticeship ratios of one to one. Can members imagine training the numbers we need in the next few years—not the next decade; we do not want to think that way, it is too depressing—but in the next two or three years? There is nothing in this throne speech that even talks about changing. They talk about skills development and they talk about it in a negative way, that is, responding to layoffs instead of training our young people for what this world is all about.

We have been asking for someone to look at the ratios and no one has. We do not know how the minister is going to solve that problem. We are very disappointed about the negative approach this government has taken in responding to training people to deal with economic development and international trade.

I suppose we could move on into the area of education. I should just pick up the throne speech at this point and see what the government has promised. I will read it: "Provide funding for school boards to offer full-day senior kindergarten programs, where classroom space permits." That is a joke.

Every parent out there could be misled by that kind of statement in a throne speech. We know we have crowded facilities right now. We know quite well that everyone wants to send his or her child to kindergarten now. We are doing it half days and we are crowded.

To make a promise like this and then to say "where classroom space permits" is deceiving to the public. It is an expectation being raised, and at a time when we have not even solved the basic problem about what children really need during the day.

If they are three, four and five years old, do they need an all-day program for education? Or does the public right now say that part of that day should be in a child care program, for two reasons?

First, children do like to play. They do not need a structured environment. They like to go outside, they like to go outdoors. And that age group still likes to have a rest in the afternoon, just like some of the politicians who visit this Legislative Assembly. They, too, like to have a rest in the afternoon and there is every excuse for them to have one.

Let me say that no one in this government has told the public whether we are going to be providing education programs for three-, four- and five-year-olds all day, or whether we are going to be providing child care programs all day. We are not sure, but we should be thinking very seriously about what children need. That is what we should be talking about.

After we think about what children need, we can talk about what their parents need. We have a very different workplace now, with more women entering full-time careers, professions and jobs for a couple of reasons. First, we have done a better job of educating in the last 20 years. More important, have members ever looked at the price of a house? Every family's dream is to own its own home and nowadays it takes two people working to do it. Therefore, little children, for a number of reasons, are left in the care of others.

People have mixed views about that. My view is that it is happening. It is this government's responsibility to respond to the needs of the people it represents, and they are telling us they need it and want it. It is necessary. It is not like Sunday shopping that was not needed nor necessary, but we gave it to them. Child care and education are needed and they are necessary. If we are going to do it, let's do it right.

I was very disappointed in that particular part of the throne speech, which confused the public,

where the policy had not been carefully thought out and the costing had been ignored.

In the history of this province, to expand right now into full-day education programs when we do not even have classrooms for students is irresponsible. It is very disconcerting that this particular government chose this time to confuse the public and act irresponsibly once again.

Social assistance: Everyone knows that the social assistance review report, called Transitions, is a number one priority for the citizens of this province, for a couple of reasons.

First, we have recognized for some period of time that we are not meeting the needs of many of our poor families, in a couple of ways. First, many of our families right now would love to go to work. Again, the world is a different place. There are many more single-parent families. Single-parent families want to raise their children. That is their first dream, their first hope and their first aspiration. It is the same as everyone else's; they want to do a good job of raising their families.

Some of them, for a very short period of time, need our assistance; not for their whole lives, but for a few years and especially when their children are very young.

At the same time as we are assisting them, we should be helping them become retrained and educated and move into the world of work. That Social Assistance Review Committee report, Transitions, does just that. It does not encourage yet another generation of people living below the poverty line and accepting social assistance without question. It does the opposite, hopefully.

None of us is proud to be even thinking about the poverty in our province. Ontario is in booming economic times. People are paying more taxes, more people are working, more people are in school, yet we have even more young children living in poverty than ever before. We have to do something about it. The public is committed to doing something about it.

**1640**

I had the distinct privilege of sitting for a couple of days on the standing committee on finance and economic affairs. On the two days I sat there, I was absolutely thrilled, first, about the way the chairman conducted the meetings, and second, about the number of persons who came before the committee to tell their stories and say what they felt was a priority for this government as we move into dealing with the real issue, and that is providing the resources.

One can imagine my distinct happiness to know that the first two recommendations of that

particular committee had to do with the Transitions report, and read like this: "1. The committee endorses the Social Assistance Review Committee report, Transitions, and recommends complete implementation of stage one." The second recommendation was unanimous: "2. The government should proceed with the cross-ministry cost-benefit analysis of the recommendations in all stages of the SARC report, and such an analysis should be completed as quickly as possible."

The two things they want are, first, that this government commit itself to stage one immediately, and, second, they want to know about the cost. They also want to know if the government is going to take the time to ask the opinions of those people who are most responsible for the implementation of these recommendations. I hope the government is listening, because we will be watching very carefully in the next two or three weeks just how the government is going to deal with stage one of this report. It was unanimous. People from all walks of life were in favour of the Transitions report.

I think what they stated at that committee is that it is economically sound. First, if people are working and have an opportunity to work, they feel as if they are contributing. Therefore, if we have people contributing, we are then doing a much better job of planning our budget in areas that people do not even think about. Healthy people who are well fed and feel good about themselves will not be using the health care budget as much as unwell people are now. We hope the cost of social assistance will go down and we hope that young children in school, young children who are well fed and happy and who have a roof over their heads without their parents constantly being concerned about increasing rents and moving, will have some stability. That is what this report should be about and that is what we will be looking for.

There were a number of aspects of this throne speech we could chat about, but I should say that I really hope, given the extent of the speech, that the government is now going to follow through on the recommendations and, again, the promises it made. In the visions we have for this province of Ontario, we would hope that this government will come forth with a very sound housing policy; that it will deal with the issues of the environment; that it will look at the real needs of education. When I talk about education I am talking about supplying capital dollars for schools without infringing for ever on the municipalities and the local taxpayers.

There must be ways this government can look at in order to become more efficient. I have talked about the growth in the size of bureaucracy. I wish someone would look at it. Efficiency has a whole lot to do with human resource management policies. In just the short time I have been here I have looked at the policies as they differ across the ministries. I am now talking about workplace environment appraisals; I am talking about a number of audit reports around finances and program; and I am talking about a simple thing such as a performance appraisal.

If the people who are working in the offices of our government are made to feel good about what they are doing and evaluated so they themselves know they are making a wonderful contribution; if they can support each other and if they can work towards giving our ministers and this government the best information they can, and feel good about themselves because there is good leadership among the government, we will be much more efficient. But those policies are lacking and differ between ministries.

I think right now many of our civil servants are very depressed about the workplace they work in. Part of it has to do with the promises they thought would be kept, because they too spend money on taxes; they too have families to support.

In closing, I hope that just some or most of the promises in this throne speech will be followed through on and that the public of this province can look forward to better education, better opportunities and taking care of the people we most care for, the poor people in our province.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr M. C. Ray):** Thank you. I would remind honourable members that there are no questions or comments in response to windup speeches.

**Mr Laughren:** I am pleased to rise on behalf of my colleagues this afternoon. I must say, without pointing fingers, that attendance in this assembly for the throne speech debate from beginning to end has plummeted in recent years. I think part of the blame must be put on the Premier (Mr Peterson) who has shown zero interest in his own throne speech. That is true. It was true last year and it is true again this year.

The leadership must come from him; to reinvigorate the throne speech, if members of his caucus—and the opposition parties, too, to be fair—are to speak, for him particularly to at least hear what his own members, particularly the backbenchers, have to say. I think it would be a useful exercise for him.

I would think in particular with this throne speech that he should have been in here listening to some of the very positive suggestions from the opposition, because we are witnessing a government—I know he is no longer in this world, but I would have thought Stephen Leacock was in charge of the government. Do members remember Stephen Leacock? Most members remember him. One description I always liked, and this is the way I think of the Premier and the leadership of this government, is of the fellow who jumped on a horse and rode off in all directions. I think that is exactly the way the Premier is running his government in Ontario these days.

If one thinks back to the period of 1985 to 1987 when the agenda of the government was set, and I do not think Liberal members would disagree with this, the agenda was set by the accord signed between the Liberal Party and the New Democrats. It was a very exciting legislative period of time between 1985 and 1987, because it was agenda-driven. That is what made this place hum between 1985 and 1987.

**An hon member:** And fear.

**Mr Laughren:** And fear. There was a component of fear, too; I will not say who had the most fear, but there certainly was an element. Since the 1987 election, there really has been a drift in the kind of direction the government has tried to give. One does not need to look very far to see it; it is very fundamental.

The other day, when somebody asked me, "Is the Liberal government a free enterprise government?" I thought to myself, "I don't know." If one looks at the whole question of auto insurance, which is an issue that comes up and is one that everybody understands, the basic choice in this province is whether you have a publicly run auto insurance system or whether you have a privately run auto insurance system. The government says, "No, no, we're free enterprisers."

1650

I heard the member for Guelph (Mr Ferraro) the other day get up and talk at great length about the evils of communism. I did not know it was a threat in Ontario but the member for Guelph obviously thinks it is and checks under his bed every night, I am sure, to see if there are any Reds there.

Anyway, we have the very fundamental question of how the automobile insurance system is going to be run in this province. The government says, "It is going to be free enterprise." Then it says: "Wait a minute now. We do not really like what the free enterprise system is doing, so we will set up the Ontario

Automobile Insurance Board." So it sets up the board, not to take over insurance, but to keep an eye on the private sector and make sure it does not do anything too damaging to the drivers of Ontario—more appropriately, too politically damaging to the government.

The government sets that up and then it passes a bill that says it is the one that will set the rates. Then the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board comes out, sets its rates and the government says: "Oh, just a minute. We cannot allow this watchdog on the private sector allow the private sector to have those kinds of increases in auto insurance rates." So what does it do? Last week it brought in another bill, which says: "No, no. We will take that right away from the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board and we will set the rate of automobile insurance increases."

If somebody out there was watching this government in action, what would he conclude from its actions on auto insurance? Would he conclude it was a private sector, free-enterprise government, or would he think that any government that intervenes in the marketplace in that way could not possibly be a free-enterprise government? I wonder what people are thinking about this government. Are they just saying, "It is neither; it is a Liberal government"? Is that what they are saying? Jumping on a horse and riding off in all directions is really what it comes down to.

I am glad the Minister of Education (Mr Ward) is here because I can remember all the applause when the minister said, "We are going to reduce the pupil-teacher ratio in grades 1 and 2 to 20 to 1." I am sure the minister will correct me if I am wrong. At that time the ratio was about 28 to 1, as I recall.

The only thing is that the minister forgot a few things. He really did not understand that this was going to require about 4,000 teachers—

**Hon Mr Ward:** I understood that.

**Mr Laughren:** Oh, he did understand that—and that 4,000 teachers were going to retire.

There are going to be roughly 4,000 teachers graduating from the teachers' colleges. Then the minister announces, "Well, we are also going to bring in junior kindergarten and kindergarten for all parents who want it." That is going to require some more teachers, more spaces and more portables.

I see the minister is nodding his head. One really has to wonder what in the world he is thinking of.

The York Board of Education estimates that the new policy could put in place between 4,000

and 5,000 kids in junior kindergarten. That means 90 more portables for the York board. This means that in September 1989 the York board is going to have 16,000 students in 656 portables. There is no room in some of the schools to even put the portables in place, and not enough money.

**Hon Mr Ward:** Are you saying, "Don't do it"?

**Mr Laughren:** What I am saying is that what the minister is announcing gets great ink and much applause. We support it too. But then the minister does not come through with the money and has not thought through the ramifications of the teacher shortage problem. They are recruiting teachers out of province like crazy now. The minister did not think of that. He simply thought he could make some great announcements and the problem would look after itself, which is really silly.

The Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan) announces that we are heading for an era of home care, that we want to ease the pressure on the health care institutions in this province. Then the very people who deliver home care, the Red Cross and the Victorian Order of Nurses, have to come begging and screaming. It becomes a big issue here in the Legislature. Finally, she gives in reluctantly and begrudgingly and gives them some money.

If the minister is out there in a proactive way promoting home care, why does she put the organizations that deliver that home care through what she puts those organizations through? It is absolutely ridiculous. The minister puts in place a cancer treatment centre and a cancer research centre in Sudbury, and then will not do what is necessary to make sure the qualified director of the research centre is hired. She will not intervene for licensing purposes—she simply will not do it—and then allows her deputy minister to bludgeon the director in Sudbury.

If there is any minister of the crown who has received high marks in the last couple of years, it is the Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley), but then I see what has happened to him lately. He made a decision on Temagami that environmentalists certainly are not in favour of, nor am I.

**Mrs Grier:** He was not involved in the garbage issue.

**Mr Laughren:** The garbage issue: Where is he? And his idea: There used to be a principle in this province that the polluter pays; no more. Now, the gamblers pay for the polluters through Cleantario, the government's lottery system.

That is what it is. There used to be a very well-entrenched system of the polluter pays.

I look at the minister's performance in the last week concerning the tainted fuels. It is not one he will remember fondly when he writes his memoirs, I am sure.

Labour legislation: What is the government saying about labour legislation? The Minister of Labour (Mr Sorbara) brings in a bill affectionately known as Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act. He brings in that bill, universally despised by the labour movement, injured workers and legal clinics. They universally despise that bill. The minister is determined to proceed.

Then he brings in a bill called Bill 208, An Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Workers' Compensation Act. That is one labour in general supports and all the employers in the province cannot stand.

Nobody knows where this government is going. There it goes, riding off in all directions again. Remember Stephen Leacock. He must have known these people were going to be on the scene. How else could he have described them so accurately?

I look at the Premier's technology fund. The great feather in the cap of this government is the technology fund. A lot of people say the Premier is looking ahead. He has his eye on the future, because of this technology fund that is going to pick the winners out there and make sure Ontario is well-placed as we head into a high-tech world. That is the word.

Then along comes an opportunity to be in the forefront of scientific research in the entire world. In this province, it requires \$7.2 million over a four-year or five-year period and they balk at it, because they say, "We do not know what the practical application is of a neutrino observatory in Sudbury." That is what he says and that is what the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr Kwinter) says.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** What's this weirdo thing, down the mine?

**Mr Laughren:** That is the thing I am talking about. If every time in the history of this world when an opportunity came along for research, people said, "We are not going to spend any money on it because we cannot at the moment see a practical application," we would not be enjoy many of the benefits we do now. Yet the Premier seems to think, because there is no practical application at this point, he is simply not going to do it. Even though it would put Ontario in the forefront around the world on pure research on

neutrinos, this government has so far refused to fund it.

Italy has committed funds. The United States has committed funds. Ottawa has committed funds. I believe Great Britain has committed funds. But not Ontario, even though it is situated in this jurisdiction. Surely it is time the government got off its assets and began to fund this very useful project.

Housing: The rent review system is a shambles. Everyone would agree with that; everyone in the province. The landlords and the tenants both agree rent review is a shambles in Ontario. House prices: Look at house prices in Metropolitan Toronto. The average price of a new home in Metro now is in excess of \$350,000. The average price of a resale home in Metro is \$280,000.

**Mr Faubert:** Not this week.

**Mr Laughren:** Yes, this week. An average family income of \$102,000 is required to buy that resale home priced at \$280,000. What does the government do? Will it bring in a speculation tax, even though the price of that home has gone up \$50,000 in the last year? Will it entertain a speculation tax? Not on principal residences; only on land and housing speculators. Not on principal residences; that has never been our position. It is only on speculation, not on someone's principal residence.

That is not what we are saying and the members opposite know that, and this government simply will not bring it in. It would rather see the marketplace have its way out there. There is speculation going on in housing. We think that is fundamentally wrong.

The Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) has made it clear he has no interest in intervening in that way. All he does is keep telling us prices have peaked. He was telling us that two years ago and a year ago.

**Mr Faubert:** Going down fast.

**Mr Smith:** Going down fast.

**Mr Laughren:** The Treasurer told us a year ago they were going down fast. He told us two years ago they were going down fast. Where are they? They are \$50,000 more now than they were a year ago and \$100,000 more than they were two years ago when the Treasurer and the Premier were saying, "They're going to go down." We have been hearing that now ever since the issue of a speculation tax was raised.

1700

**Mr D. R. Cooke:** They're going down.

**Mr Laughren:** That is what they told us two years ago.

**Mr Laughren:** Speaking of the Treasurer and Treasury matters, there are a few points I would like to make to the Treasurer. One, the Treasurer is for ever whining about the federal government cutting back transfer payments to the province. He whines a great deal about it. What does he do to those jurisdictions over which he has some control? He freezes the unconditional grants to the municipalities. He freezes the grants for roads assistance. He transfers the cost of court security to the municipalities. Those are all very expensive projects.

Interjection

**Mr Laughren:** That is what the federal government is saying. Why will you not buy the same argument from the federal government that you buy from your own Treasurer? Because it is not self-serving, my friend; that is the only reason.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The member will address his remarks through the Speaker.

**Mr Laughren:** Look at school boards. In 1975, in round numbers, the province paid for about 60 per cent of the cost of education and the school boards paid for the difference. In 1989, those numbers are almost reversed. The province is paying only 42.7 per cent of operating expenses, despite a Liberal promise that they would move back to 60 per cent. It is a sad day for people at the local level.

The provincial government awarded increases of 6.1 per cent to the school boards, I believe. If you take away two per cent due to enrolment increases and another two per cent due to the announcements made by the Minister of Education dealing with class size, kindergarten and so forth—you have done away with another two per cent—there goes four per cent out of the 6.1 per cent increase, leaving the local school boards with a two per cent increase in grants to deal with in a year when the inflation rate is going to be around five per cent.

They are cutting back to the municipalities and to the school boards in exactly the same way the federal government is cutting back to the province of Ontario. That does not stop the Treasurer and the Premier from whining about it, of course, but there is an inconsistency there.

**Mr D. R. Cooke:** You can't give away what you haven't got.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr Laughren:** Well, we have shown the Treasurer how to raise money to have a fairer tax system in this province and his eyes and ears are closed. That is what it comes down to.

**Mr D. R. Cooke:** Give us the figures.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr Laughren:** The member for Kitchener (Mr D. R. Cooke) keeps flapping his gums without understanding that we have costed every single program we have put before the Treasurer. The land speculation tax—

**Mr D. R. Cooke:** You'll never be able to tell us.

**Mr Laughren:** The member is talking through the top of his head. He is just flapping his mouth without knowing what he is talking about.

The Treasurer simply wants to have it all ways when it comes to dealing with the municipalities and the federal government. He whines nonstop at what the federal government is doing to him and then does the same thing to the municipalities and the school boards. It really is no different. We have told the Treasurer many times where the new tax money can be and where we should spend it.

We do not expect the Liberal government to be a NDP government, but we do expect more fairness in the tax system than the Tories had in their tax system. Perhaps my understanding of what Liberalism means is different from the Treasurer's idea. I always thought that to be a Liberal was to be at least more progressive than a Tory. I used to believe that, but I want to say that when you look at the tax system in this province, it is not one bit fairer now than it was when the Tories were in power in Ontario. It is just as mean-spirited now as it was then. It is just the same. There is no difference at all.

Interjection

**Mr Laughren:** Well, I could give an example. I am glad the member for London North (Mrs Cunningham) talked about the Transitions report, the Social Assistance Review Committee report, the Thomson report. None of those words were mentioned in the throne speech of course. Nevertheless, there is the whole question of assistance for those people below the poverty line in the province of Ontario.

The Thomson report recommended that what it said should be implemented in stages. He made a very specific plea. He was testifying before the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, Judge Thomson was; I guess he is Mr Thomson now.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Deputy Thomson.

**Mr Laughren:** Deputy Thomson. He said he did not want the report implemented in bits and pieces; he wanted it done as a whole. Here we have now in the throne speech—

**Mr D. R. Cooke:** He did not say that.

**Mr Laughren:** I do not mind the member for Kitchener heckling, but I wish he knew what he was talking about.

This is what Mr Thomson said:

"We think that the first stage, as a package, is extremely important. It is important for practical reasons because if you do not deal with all elements—adequacy, incentives and what you receive when you are working—you can create a more illogical system than the one we have now. Secondly, it is extremely important symbolically to demonstrate that we are changing the whole approach of the system. If we just do little bits of stage one, it will look like what we have done for 20 years, which is a piecemeal change here and a piecemeal change there that have added up to a very costly system, but one that overall does not make sense."

The member for Kitchener was trying to say he did not say that. Well, that is exactly what he said.

What does this government do? This government is going to introduce it piecemeal. There has been no announcement that there is going to be an increase in the minimum wage. Can you imagine thinking that you are going to turn welfare cheques to paycheques with the minimum wage at \$4.75 an hour in the province of Ontario? It is absolutely ridiculous.

This government seems content to watch the people below the poverty level depend on food banks. I went and did some checking on food banks and there are 84,000 people a month now using food banks in the Toronto area alone. That is up 13,000 in one year. One seventh of all the children in Metropolitan Toronto rely on hand-outs from food banks. Surely to goodness this is unacceptable in Ontario and in Metropolitan Toronto. How can you accept that? Prior to 1980, there were no food banks at all in Toronto. Now there are 80 food banks in Toronto alone. They are Ontario's biggest growth industry.

Do you know what would make the Liberals happy, Mr Speaker? The Liberals would be very happy to see the Jaguars, the BMWs, the Audis and the Cadillacs pulling up to the food banks and dropping off canned food. That is their idea of social assistance, having those who have it make a charitable case out of it and deliver canned goods to the food banks.

The thing I live in dread of is that this government will ever declare war on poverty, because its idea of a war on poverty will be to throw stones at beggars. I can see it now. They do not seem to understand that people want to be

self-reliant. They do not simply want handouts from people who hop out of their Jaguars and drop off a box of canned foods.

I should say, before I leave the question of poverty, how much I think we all owe the people who marched from Sudbury, Windsor and Ottawa in support of the Thomson report and in support of those people living below the poverty line in Ontario. I think they have done us all a service. I think they have made all Ontario aware of how unfair it is in the province of Ontario.

To this day, a single person earning \$2,000 below the poverty line in Ontario will pay about \$1,000 in taxes, and a family earning \$20,000 will pay about \$2,000. It is absolutely ridiculous when you see those people who are not paying taxes compared to those people who have so little paying so much.

I believe the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney), understands. I happen to believe he does have sympathy for and a comprehension of the enormity of this problem. I want to tell the members that I believe we are all demeaned when we allow this kind of poverty in our midst, and I think the minister understands that. I am not at all sure that the people to whom he has to answer in cabinet understand that, though, but we will see.

1710

When the budget comes down two days from now, we will see whether the minister has won or should resign, because that is really what it comes down to, in our view. Either the minister substantially gets phase one of Thomson or I do not know how he can continue to sit in his place with any integrity. I really do not understand that.

I wish the minister well. I hope he wins, and we will be the first to applaud him if he does. We would be very happy to—

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr Laughren:** No, I am not the minister, but I do think there is a matter of great principle involved here. The Thomson committee did its work well; it took its job very seriously. I think in most people's minds their recommendations, while expensive, were absolutely necessary if we are going to break that dependency on the social assistance system in Ontario. That is why it is a package and you cannot do it piecemeal; I hope the minister understands that.

There is one other area of major importance that, while it was not in the throne speech, I think the government would be well advised to think

about seriously. If it is looking for something that will give it a label or a tag as a reform-minded government, this is it.

Last Thursday my colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr D. S. Cooke) brought before this House a resolution calling for a universal sickness and accident scheme for Ontario. It is no surprise to some members in here; as a matter of fact, the Nixon boys are both here and both of them called for it during a Liberal convention a year or so ago. I am very pleased that they are both here today too. They both said that a universal system is something whose time has come. I can assume that the member for Kitchener and the member for Guelph were not at that convention, because they certainly would have had their heads if they had heard them say that at the convention.

We believe that a model exists in the country of New Zealand. It is a universal, 24-hour system that compensates people regardless of where they are injured and regardless of fault. New Zealand does not yet have sickness built into the system. I think they felt they had to start with accidents and some day, I hope, they will move to sickness being included as well.

Our present system does not work. What makes them think they can keep amending the workers' compensation system, keep adding things on to it, and it still makes everybody unhappy? The employers in Ontario are unhappy. The injured workers are very unhappy.

It is not going to work. The compensation system in Ontario will collapse under its own weight; \$7 billion is now the unfunded liability for the Workers' Compensation Board. They cannot fix it up. It does not work. It cannot work. It is not possible. So the sooner they realize that what we need in this province is to do away with the Workers' Compensation Board and put in its place a universal system, the better.

It is a very simple system. I wish I had a chalkboard here, because it is very easy to depict a pie divided into three sections. One section has workers injured on the job, or even away from the job, another section has automobile drivers and passengers and the third section has everyone else. That covers everyone.

It is not an adversarial system. If someone gets hurt, he gets his cheque and then internally it is determined whether the employer pays, whether it comes out of the automobile fund or whether it comes out of the other fund for people injured at home or at play.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** There must be a lot of appeal jobs there.

**Mr Laughren:** No, as a matter of fact, that is not the case. Our present system is an adversarial one where the worker has to prove that the injury happened on the job. The system in New Zealand is nonadversarial. Nobody will go back to the old system in New Zealand—nobody. It is absolutely a certainty that if you go to New Zealand—and I wish some government members would go to New Zealand and talk to them about it—the employers would not go back to the old system. The employees would not go back to the old system. Nobody would go back to the old system they have there.

**Mr Dietsch:** Maybe the chairman of the resources committee will bring that up.

**Mr Laughren:** As a matter of fact, I do think the standing committee on resources development should do some serious travelling one of these years and investigate this system.

We know that no government can be everything that everyone wants, but we do think we have a right to expect competence, consistency and fairness. We are not getting any of those from this government. We are not getting competence, whether you look at health care, education or the environment. We are not getting consistency. We are not getting any fairness from our tax system.

That is why, two weeks ago, my leader moved an amendment to the throne speech which basically was a motion of nonconfidence in this government. In conclusion, I would say I would be very surprised if a lot of people in Ontario will not agree with us at this point that they too have no confidence in this government.

**Hon Mr Ward:** I am indeed pleased to have this opportunity to address the issues that were raised in the speech from the throne some two weeks ago, issues which will command much, but not all, of the attention of this government over the course of the next year.

I have listened very carefully to the comments made by the member for Nickel Belt and, before him, the member for London North (Mrs Cunningham). I listened to those remarks with some hope and some expectation that perhaps some positive points of view and some constructive suggestions would be put forward. Unfortunately, I think the remarks of both of them were somewhat lacking in the positive, but I do understand they are fulfilling a very important role here and I do not want to go on at much length in that vein.

I do want to congratulate both the member for Northumberland (Mrs Fawcett) and the member for Don Mills (Mr Velshi) for their input to this

debate in moving and seconding the speech. As new members to this Legislature, they have clearly distinguished themselves over the course of the past year and a half. Certainly for both of them I know it would have been an honour to move and second the speech and I do want to offer them some words of congratulation.

I can also recall taking part in the very first throne speech debate of this government. The previous speaker, I think, spoke a little bit of those happy times back in 1985 when we first formed a government. There is no question that, at that time, this province had an awful lot of ground to make up and, after 42 years of one-party rule, it is fair to say there was certainly a lot to do. A great deal of this government's first throne speech reflected the campaign commitments which my party had already put forward in the 1985 election.

We were indeed making up for years of neglect, so we did indeed have to move on many fronts at once, such as establishing freedom of information, eliminating extra billing and moving ahead in pay equity. There was simply a great deal to do in many areas and our immediate goals alone made up some components of one of the largest throne speeches in history.

**Mr Pouliot:** What about the accord?

**Hon Mr Ward:** My friend across the way asks, "What about the accord?" There is no question that had an impact in that exciting time in this Legislature. But perhaps one of the things that made that first throne speech even more significant was the greater commitment seen on all sides of this House to get things done. There was a feeling around here that each and every one of us, even the opposition, had a contribution to make to the work of this House.

1720

**Mrs Grier:** Well, as soon as you begin to recognize that again, we'll co-operate.

**Hon Mr Ward:** There was an atmosphere around here that, I believe, was far more constructive. To my friend the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, I think that from time it still does surface; but in my view it is unfortunate that it is so noteworthy because of its rarity. I guess I have not been here long enough to become cynical but I, for one, really do believe that each and every one of us does has a contribution to make, and that we on this side of the House are prepared to listen to that kind of positive input and react accordingly.

We made a lot of commitments back in those days, and by the time the 1987 election was

called we clearly had fulfilled those commitments. I think it is fair to say that the voters in September 1987 were rewarding a government for doing what it said it would do. We had indeed promised to do many things. We kept those promises and we were given the opportunity to put forward a new agenda.

The next stage of this government was laying out a broad, long-term agenda, which we did in the fall of 1987. It was an agenda that was based on a commitment to ensure Ontario's ability to compete, to provide our children with the kind of education they will need to meet the very real challenges of the next century and to reflect in government policies the major changes that were taking place in this province's population.

Moving ahead on this agenda required a broad range of commitments, which we have made an excellent start towards fulfilling. This year we have recognized that it is necessary to spell out a specific set of immediate priorities, which require considerable attention over the course of the next 12 months. I think that this speech from the throne indeed sets out these priorities on the path to fulfilling the government's overall vision for this province.

The throne speech deals with six priority areas. I want to speak to each one of these, focusing particularly on the area in which I have some responsibility, the education of our children. No one, though, should get or create the impression that these six areas are all that we are doing. This government has most certainly not lost the habit we established early on, of moving progressively on many fronts at once. We are moving ahead in reforming labour legislation, creating affordable housing and improving transportation systems, to name just three of many other important areas. The government has no intention of slowing down in any of these fields.

However, the throne speech does make it clear that we intend to put a pronounced emphasis on six areas in particular. In creating the programs outlined in the speech, we begin with the recognition that our most important obligation is our children's future. For the past four years we have been very fortunate in this province. We can be proud of one of the longest periods of sustained economic growth that this province has ever seen in its history.

As we pointed out in the throne speech, since 1982 we have "outpaced the industrial world in economic expansion." Our economy has grown enormously. We have created hundreds of thousands of new jobs. In order to build on our strength in this province, we want to maintain

that economic growth and ensure that its benefits are shared by all members of our society.

Most important, we want to invest in the next generation, in the future of our children. Indeed, we do recognize over here—and I am sure the opposition shares that—that this is the most important investment we can make. That is why the policies outlined in the speech from the throne are geared to the needs, both long-term and short-term, of the next generation of Ontarians.

We see six areas as crucial to the future of this province.

Our children do need an education system that will equip them with the knowledge and skills they will need to keep up with a rapidly changing world. Our children need to be assured that the basics of adequate food, clothing and shelter are there.

They need the ability to overcome some of the terrible disadvantages society all too often places on them. They need to grow up in stable communities, in an atmosphere of security rather than fear. They have a right to the twin legacies of a society that promotes both a healthy lifestyle and a clean environment. Indeed, if we cannot pass on to our children a legacy of clean air and fresh lakes, then little that we pass on to them will be of any value whatsoever.

Finally, we know that our ability to build on the programs that help us to achieve these goals depends on our capacity to maintain and sustain the economic growth that has been known around here as the Nixon boom.

**Mr Laughren:** John Sweeney won't buy that line.

**Hon Mr Ward:** Even my friend the member for Nickel Belt will know that it is through economic growth that we can continue to enhance those very important social programs that provide our province and its people with the stability we need and the quality of life that we have come to enjoy.

That is why the throne speech outlines the steps we will be taking to ensure economic growth. We have already put in motion, through the Premier's Council, a program to create an economy that is truly prepared to compete with the rest of the world.

We are going to build on that program in all regions of this province, because we realize that Ontario's industries can only be as competitive as the people who make them up. That means, as my friend the member for London North has pointed out, that we have to continue to support apprenticeship and other skills training arrange-

ments that combine education with necessary on-the-job training. We are going to help train new workers and retrain older workers.

We also know that our economic health has to be matched by our physical health, so we are shifting the emphasis of our health strategy from health prevention to health promotion. We are going to move further and faster into community-based health care services and continue to provide accessible, affordable health services for all and take special steps to address specialty care needs.

We are also going to support a high-quality physical environment. On this point, I think most people in this province will concede that over the course of the past four years we have made tremendous progress under the leadership of this Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley).

We have moved from a Ministry of the Environment which used to be known for defending the rights of polluters to one that is now known for defending the right to be protected from polluters. For many years, this province saw the environment as something to be traded off against our economic needs. We see the two as going hand in hand. That is why we continue to develop pollution abatement technologies and that is why we continue to encourage more efficient water use and conservation by industry.

1730

As well as the right to inherit a clean environment, the next generation has the right to grow up in a secure environment. Ontarians have always had the opportunity to live in safe and secure communities, free of the fear of drugs, free of rampant violence and free of intolerance and hatred. The world has been changing in many ways and most surely Ontario is not an island. We are not immune to the kinds of problems we see in other jurisdictions or in other nations.

That is why we are taking steps, as outlined in this throne speech, to strengthen our communities and shield them from the threats of the 1990s. That is why we are moving ahead with education and prevention programs to stop the spread of drugs in schools and in high-risk communities. That is why we are providing a wider range of treatment programs, a beefed-up enforcement capacity and expanded efforts to prevent violence against women and children. Enhanced race relations training for the police and reform of our court system are part and parcel of this commitment to more secure communities in this province.

These steps will help to provide children with freedom from fear, but we also ensure that all children in Ontario are free from want, free from hunger and free from poverty. There is no question that the burden of poverty is one that I have seen children bring with them to the classroom. It is a tremendous burden to bear, and indeed a terribly unfair one.

That is why this throne speech spells out that we will be moving to a new policy aimed at breaking that vicious cycle of poverty, rather than just easing it. The reforms to the social assistance system in this province will help people get off welfare. It will remove the disincentives to work and expand the network of counselling, support, referral and skills training in job preparation.

At the same time, for those who are unable to break free of this cycle, we will be increasing support for the necessities of shelter and increasing support for children's benefits in order to help that next generation make its own way on a more equal footing with all of its fellow members of society.

This brings me to the area of the throne speech in which I of course have to take the greatest personal interest. In my view, a government agenda dedicated to the needs of children will do a great deal to assist us in the job that we clearly must do in our schools. The school system itself must be restructured to do its job. Educational needs have been changing a great deal over the course of the past few years. We all agree that our schools must provide children with the basics, but that definition of the basics must expand to fit the times.

Two of the characteristics our children most certainly will need are competence and flexibility. They will need competence because the world is indeed more complicated than it was, and they will need flexibility because the world is changing so quickly. Our schools must empower children to acquire the knowledge, the skills, the attitudes and the values they will need in this world.

We must ensure that our children, our students, have the ability to identify problems, to go about solving them and to acquire new information, organize it and apply it to new situations. In short, we have to teach our children to think for themselves.

To achieve that, I believe we have to start early. We have to make sure that all of our children feel comfortable in a learning environment, are able to get along with other children and that they have the solid foundation they need

to complete school and, more important, to benefit from it.

Then we have to be able to ensure that they are able to broaden their life and learning skills during the formative years. We have to help them make the adjustment from primary school to the more specialized studies of high school during the transition years.

Finally, once we have provided our children with this learning base, we have to help them carve out a spot that is right for them during the specialization years when they must master the marketable skills that they will need.

I believe the throne speech contains a framework that we will need to provide our children with the full support they must have at every stage of learning. It is upon this framework that we are building our vision for education in Ontario.

I do want to say at this point that that vision for education undoubtedly differs very little from the wish of every parent in this province. In fact, I think it is a vision that was very much captured by the participants in the select committee process.

Perhaps the reason that that is so notable is that this has been one experience during the course of the last session to which all members of the Legislature have made a very sincere and worthwhile commitment. They have put forward a set of proposals in a spirit of co-operation. I would point out that in their deliberations, it was one of the few examples over the course of the past year and a half in which all members from all sides of the House put their names to a series of recommendations with total unanimity.

I think that committee has put forward a vision that appeals not just to our needs but as much to our hopes, because education is clearly the one tool that can be a great equalizer in what is sometimes a very harsh and frightening world. It can be the great equalizer because it is the means by which any child in this province can rise above and escape poverty, can escape hunger and can escape any of the disadvantages that our world all too often offers.

As I have travelled throughout Ontario over the course of the past 18 months, I have often heard of the great burden put on all of us legislators, educators, parents and trustees by the enormous expectations our citizens hold for our schools. Our schools are expected to lead the fight against society's ills, whether it be drug abuse or family violence. It falls to our schools and our educators to overcome whatever shortcomings we, as a society, have developed.

Our businesses and industries expect our schools to churn out the cogs of the gears of our economy by immediately producing fully skilled workers. Our parents expect us to teach values and responsibilities, filling a role that traditionally has been the primary responsibility of the family itself.

All of these are expected of our schools because over time, publicly funded, universally available education has proved that it can make a very real difference. Indeed, education can be the great equalizer, so the vision put forward in the throne speech is that all children in Ontario can leave our schools confident that they have the skills, knowledge, understanding and values to be the very best that they can be.

I truly believe that every time a child falls short in this pursuit, then it is we too who have failed in our skills, our knowledge and our understanding. If we are prepared to accept the failure of a single child with complacency, then we too are failing in terms of our values.

#### 1740

The speech from the throne pointed the way for direction and renewal for our education system. The specific initiatives laid out in the speech highlight key components of a broad range of reforms that begin at what has been traditionally regarded as preschool and end ultimately with entering a career. When fully implemented, it is my belief that this renewal will restructure our education system to create a solid ladder of opportunity for each and every child in Ontario.

This renewal focuses on the development of language and social skills in the preschool years; it focuses on a greater mastery of basic skills and problem-solving in the elementary grades; it focuses on creating a smooth transition between elementary and secondary school and, finally, it focuses on career acquisition and job-related skills at the top of the ladder.

It is important to note that this plan was determined not in isolation and not solely by the recommendations of those who participated in the select committee process, but was formulated after literally years of input from parents, educators, consultants, even from critics from outside the system, and it was formulated with very broadly based public input from parents across this province.

The changes do not represent merely a reaction or a response to the issues that have been raised. Rather, they are put forward to take the initiative, to set out an agenda and to focus for a change on solutions instead of just on problems.

It is based on four principles, the principles of equality of opportunity, quality of education, accountability and values. The program in junior and senior kindergarten is intended to encourage every child to reach his or her full potential by giving every child in this province an equal opportunity to learn at an earlier age.

I do not think there is anything that bothers me more than to hear from time to time critics of this proposal characterize it as glorified baby-sitting, because anyone in this Legislature who has raised a child knows full well the natural curiosity of a four-year-old. Anybody in this chamber who has survived raising a four-year-old has experienced the joy of seeing the tremendous capacity to learn that exists in the minds of all the four-year-olds in this province.

Today, we are ensuring that those 50,000 young citizens of this province who have never had access to these programs, perhaps because of their economic background, perhaps because their communities do not wish to see the benefit of these programs, will now have the opportunity to access this program.

In fact, in the area of early childhood education, it is interesting that virtually everyone who has had input to the select committee, virtually everyone who has suggested change, has pointed to the need to start children earlier and the tremendous benefits that can accrue by doing so.

The second component of the plan is to revitalize the curriculum in grades 1 to 6 to focus on the development of literacy and numeracy and to ensure that all our children can develop analytical and communication skills. There will indeed be a greater emphasis on assessing student performance and on ensuring that we have a mechanism to determine which of those students need additional help and how best to see that they get it. In the past two years, we have committed millions of dollars to reducing class sizes in the primary grades, in an effort to ensure that children can get the extra help they need, particularly in the early years.

The third initiative is to move to a core curriculum in grade 9 and to structure grades 7, 8 and 9 as transition years because clearly we know that ability streaming has had a tendency to reinforce educational inequality. It is no coincidence that students from disadvantaged backgrounds are terribly overrepresented in the basic stream.

In the past we have asked children to make the most important decision of their lifetime with no high school experience. With appropriate guid-

ance and support we will ensure that they are able to make that transition and make a choice that will allow them to acquire the essential skills that they will need to make the appropriate transition to the workplace.

If we want our economy to grow and survive and if we want to continue to maintain the high standard of living we currently enjoy, then I believe that these initiatives will ensure not only that we are meeting the needs of this generation, but that we are in fact preparing the next generation for the kind of Ontario that we all very much want.

**The Speaker:** On Thursday, 27 April, Mrs Fawcett moved, seconded by Mr Velshi, that an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

"To the Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council for Canada, Knight of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, one of Her Majesty's counsel learned in the law, bachelor of arts, doctor of laws, colonel in Her Majesty's armed forces supplementary reserve, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

"We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us."

On Monday, 1 May, Mr Rae moved that the motion for an address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session be amended by adding the following thereto:

"This House, however, regrets that the speech from the throne simply confirms the slide of this government into the complacent drift of a huge majority and condemns the government for:

"Failing utterly to address the issue of tax justice, despite the predictably draconian tax unfairness of the federal Tory budget, while continuing its unprecedented financial squeeze on municipalities;

"Ignoring the garbage crisis in Ontario while trivializing our environmental problems with its proposed lottery;

"Continuing its attack on the rights of working people through its proposed changes to workers' compensation and its broken promises on pensions;

"Playing politics with social assistance, proposing much, much less than the first phase of the Thomson report's recommendations, while signalling buck-passing on the costs;

"Making empty promises on education reform by failing to back up commitments with financial support; and

"Leaving untouched and unmentioned an extraordinary range of issues facing the people of Ontario, including car insurance, home care, the north, housing, energy, the nursing shortage, the teacher shortage, post-secondary education, employment equity, health and safety, agriculture and employment standards, among others.

"Therefore, this House declares its lack of confidence in this government."

#### 1750

On Tuesday, 2 May, Mr Brandt moved that the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session be further amended by striking out everything after the phrase "and leaving untouched and unmentioned an extraordinary range of issues facing the people of Ontario" and substituting the following therefor:

"In particular:

"The continued mismanagement of the provincial taxpayer's dollars and lack of planning for fiscally responsible public policies;

"The failure on the part of the government to come to grips with the serious shortage of affordable housing in the large urban centres of the province;

"The confusion and lack of leadership demonstrated by the government with respect to automobile insurance;

"The lack of financial commitment and planning to continue the move toward increasing community-based health care begun by the previous government and the failure to mention home care in particular;

"The ageing of our society and the need for public policy initiatives to assist the seniors of the province;

"The continuing practice of the government to offload its responsibilities to other levels of government, in particular its attitude to worker training, retraining and workforce management and its continued delegating of provincial responsibilities to the municipalities;

"The total absence of any acknowledgement of the vital role of resource policies for the provincial economy, including agriculture, mining, forestry, tourism and energy;

"The failure, on the part of the government, to present a program which recognizes and would address the problems of regional disparities of the north and the east; and

"The government's wilful blindness to the growing shortages of nurses, teachers and other professionals and skilled tradespersons, which, if they persist, will threaten the viability of our economy, the competitiveness of our industries and the quality of our public services;

"Therefore, this House declares its lack of confidence in this government."

The first question to be decided is the amendment to the amendment to the motion.

#### 1800

The House divided on Mr Brandt's amendment to the amendment to the motion, which was negatived on the following vote:

#### Ayes

Allen, Brandt, Breagh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cunningham, Eves, Farnan, Grier, Harris, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Kormos, Laughren, Martel, McCague, McLean, Morin-Strom, Philip, E., Pollock, Pope, Pouliot, Rae, B., Reville, Villeneuve.

#### Nays

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Bossy, Bradley, Brown, Callahan, Campbell, Carrothers, Chiarelli, Cleary, Collins, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cordiano, Curling, Daigeler, Dietsch, Elliot, Elston, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fleet, Fontaine, Fulton, Furlong, Grandmaitre, Haggerty, Hart, Henderson, Hošek, Kanter, Kerrio, Keyes, Kwinter, Leone, Lupusella;

MacDonald, Mahoney, Mancini, Matrundola, McClelland, McGuigan, McGuinty, Miclash, Morin, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Nixon, R. F., Oddie Munro, Offer, O'Neill, Y., Owen, Patten, Pelissero, Peterson, Phillips, G., Polsinelli, Poole, Ramsay, Ray, M. C., Rycraft, Riddell, Roberts, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sola, Sorbara, South, Stoner, Sullivan, Sweeney, Tatham, Velshi, Ward, Wilson, Wrye.

Ayes 26; nays 79.

The House divided on Mr Rae's amendment, which was negatived on the same vote.

The House divided on Mrs Fawcett's main motion, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

**The Speaker:** It is resolved that an humble address be presented to His Honour Lincoln Alexander, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

To His Honour Lincoln M. Alexander, a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council for Canada, Knight of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, one of Her Majesty's counsel learned in the law,

bachelor of arts, doctor of laws, colonel in Her Majesty's armed forces supplementary reserve, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

May it please Your Honour, we, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now

assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us.

The House adjourned at 1806.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

## COMMERCIAL ASSESSMENT

1. **Mr Jackson:** Would the Minister of Revenue provide the following information concerning commercial assessment: (a) that portion of the province-wide commercial assessment base accounted for by publicly traded corporations expressed as a percentage of the whole; (b) that portion of Metropolitan Toronto's commercial assessment base accounted for by publicly traded corporations, expressed as a percentage of the whole, and (c) that portion of Halton region's commercial assessment base accounted for by publicly traded corporations, expressed as a percentage of the whole? [Originally tabled 23 February 1989. Tabled 26 April 1989]

**Hon Mr Grandmaître:** The Ministry of Revenue provides each municipality in Ontario with an assessment roll on an annual basis. Under the provisions of the Assessment Act, namely, subsection 13(1), these assessment rolls contain certain specified property data, including the names of all persons who are liable to assessment and the property assessments.

Where a property is owned by a corporation, the name of the corporation is included in the assessment roll. In addition, if that corporation is carrying on a business, the assessment roll indicates that the property is subject to commercial assessment.

However, corporations are not identified on the basis of whether they are privately owned or publicly traded.

Therefore, it is not possible to determine from property assessment records the portion of commercial assessment accounted for by publicly traded corporations.

## CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION

19. **Mr Jackson:** Would the Minister of Revenue provide copies of all letters, memoranda, documents and studies within his possession which consider or discuss the imposition of a tax or levy similar in purpose and intent to that provided for by section 13 of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act of South Australia? [Originally tabled 27 February 1989. Tabled 26 April 1989]

**Hon Mr Grandmaître:** The Ministry of Revenue has not researched the implementation of a tax or levy similar in purpose and intent to that provided for by section 13 of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act of South Australia;

therefore, no studies, memoranda, documents or letters are available.

## PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS TAX

20. **Mr Jackson:** Would the Minister of Revenue provide copies of any studies, memoranda, documents or letters within his possession which discuss the feasibility of placing a special tax on pornographic magazines, films and videos? [Originally tabled 27 February 1989. Tabled 26 April 1989]

**Hon Mr Grandmaître:** The Ministry of Revenue has not conducted any research into the feasibility of placing a special tax on pornographic magazines, films or videos; therefore, no studies, memoranda, documents or letters are available.

## INTERIM ANSWERS

23 to 52. **Mr Jackson:** Hon Mr Ward—The answers to these questions are not available at this time. Answers will be available on or before 30 June 1989.

## RESPONSE TO PETITION

## TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

Sessional paper P-2, re Teachers' Superannuation Act.

**Hon Mr Ward:** The issue of providing a pension based on a "best five" years' service to those who have already retired must be viewed in the context of the overall financial situation of the teachers' pension plan.

Studies have shown that a "best five" recalculation would have considerable cost implications for the teachers' pension funds. Studies have also indicated that such a measure would not provide significant improvements for those who retired prior to 1976 and did not benefit from improved salary conditions and inflation protection.

In 1985 this issue was referred to the Public Sector Pensions Advisory Board, which reviewed the matter and recommended against such a change. Following these recommendations, the government decided that the most effective use of limited resources would be to augment low pensions with an ad hoc increase for teachers who retired prior to 1976. This improvement was implemented in 1987 and has been paid for entirely by the government.

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS\*

(130 seats)

Second Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- 
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)  
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)  
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)  
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\*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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No. 13

# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario



**Second Session, 34th Parliament**

Tuesday, 16 May 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, 16 May 1989

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### MUNICIPAL FUNDING

**Mr J. M. Johnson:** I would like to bring to the attention of this House a serious problem being experienced in many municipalities, particularly in small rural areas, pertaining to capital funding for upgrading and expanding their sewage and water systems. Hopefully, in tomorrow's budget the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) will be addressing this problem and will provide the capital funds necessary to undertake these projects, for without this assistance the government's much-publicized initiative for creating affordable housing will have little or no hope of success.

The Minister of Housing (Ms Hošek) has called upon municipalities to designate 25 per cent of their housing stock for moderate-income families. In these municipalities, where the existing number of serviced lots is limited and the funds for extending sewage and water services for the development of new lots is not available, the result can only be more expensive housing.

If the government is serious about achieving its objectives and addressing the housing crisis in this province, it must take a more practical and realistic approach to the problem, by increased capital funds to municipalities for sewage and waterworks projects, improving the priority rating system and developing a speedier and less complicated approvals process.

In my riding, Wellington, the town of Fergus and the village of Arthur have been waiting for over three years for approval. The town of Mount Forest was notified on 4 May that its request for direct grant assistance has been denied, which means the town will have no growth potential in the next three to four years or more. How can these municipalities and others like them provide new housing, affordable or not?

### PITCH-IN WEEK

**Mr Dietsch:** I would like to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of members of this House the efforts of several groups within my riding of St Catharines-Brock that were

involved in a cleanup campaign in recognition of Pitch-In Week.

Mathew Blyde, a student from Maywood Elementary School, expressed his interest in doing something for this event. In co-operation with his mother, Nora Blyde, and his school principal, Mr Lockier, they organized the participation of Maywood School in the pitch-in program.

Also, Lucie Piche-Cantin, a teacher from Immaculate Conception school, along with the students of this school, is to be commended for involvement in the cleanup en route to and in Montebello Park. This effort served to add to what is already one of the most beautiful parks in the garden city of St Catharines.

St Vincent de Paul School, the Boy Scouts of Canada, Applewood School, Merritton School Outers Club, St Theresa School and the young moms and tots program are also to be congratulated.

In closing, I would like to commend all these fine young people, their teachers and their parents for their efforts in helping to ensure that the beauty of St Catharines-Brock is maintained for all the residents of and visitors to our area.

### ACCESS FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN IN ONTARIO

**Mrs Grier:** Last Sunday, Access for Parents and Children in Ontario closed its doors for the last time. Access is a program of the Lakeshore Area Multi-Service Project in my riding.

Access has provided opportunities since 1981 for noncustodial parents to have supervised visits with their children. In 1988, 517 families were served, for a total of 1,298 visits. Also in 1988, Access logged 1,180 volunteer hours. Over the years, 90 per cent to 95 per cent of the cases handled by Access were referred to it by the courts and 40 per cent of the parents served developed to the point where they no longer needed the program.

Access has closed because voluntary sources of funding were no longer available and because this government has refused to help. Despite pushing ahead with Bill 124, which will make Access and programs like it even more impor-

tant, the Attorney General (Mr Scott) says funding is not his responsibility.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services opened a pilot project from which the minister said he could learn whether or not Access was justified. He has now closed the pilot project and allowed Access in Etobicoke to die, a sad thing to happen on Mother's Day. While most members of this House celebrated their family relationships last Sunday, the one program in the province providing children whose family relationships have broken down with a place to visit their parents went out of business.

#### BEER PRICING

**Mr Runciman:** I rise to address the unfair policies of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. Consumers are being lured to LCBO stores to purchase imported beer because of the preferential treatment the LCBO gives to imports. For example, the consumer can purchase a six-pack of foreign beer for as little as \$4.40; the same case of domestic beer would cost \$2.15 more.

While the prices may seem attractive to consumers, the net result may be significant job losses in Ontario in both the brewing and manufacturing industries. Ontario's brewing and manufacturing industries are not asking for the same kind of favouritism now offered by the LCBO to their foreign counterparts; rather the Ontario industry only requests a level playing field.

Ontario brewers pay a substantial service charge to the LCBO to defray the board's cost of retailing its products; however, imports are exempt from such charges. Ontario brewers absorb all costs for warehousing, inventory and transportation directly to LCBO stores; however, the imports do not. Domestic brewers pay deposit charges on their products; this fee is not paid by the imports.

It is time for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr Wrye) to change LCBO policies to create a level playing field so that jobs in Ontario's brewing and manufacturing industries will not be jeopardized. The minister should be giving this House his assurance that he will take quick action to establish a policy whereby domestic products are treated no less favourably than imported products.

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#### RIDING OF PETERBOROUGH

**Mr Adams:** Since I was elected, I have been pointing out that Peterborough riding is a microcosm of Ontario: Half is Canadian Shield,

with lakes, mining, lumber and tourism, like northern Ontario; the other half is limestone with mixed farming, like southern Ontario. We have a diverse economy with heavy and light and high-technology and low-technology industries, higher-education and health sectors and a tourist sector. Our residents include native persons and people from over 50 countries.

Because Peterborough is a microcosm of Ontario, many companies use it as a product test centre. However, the riding is also a microcosm of the provincial government. I say this because of the number of provincial institutions we have. We have a community college, a university, a housing authority and a penitentiary. Many ridings do not have one, let alone two, hospitals, a women's health centre and a regional centre for the judicial system.

Peterborough has all of these things. In addition, at least 10 other ministries have offices in the riding. This institutional presence means that every single ministry in our government has direct dealings with Peterborough riding. I want to thank public servants in all ministries for their patience and efficiency in dealing with questions and concerns which I raise on behalf of my constituents.

#### HIRING PRACTICES

**Mr Wildman:** I rise on a question of particular importance with regard to the Ministry of Natural Resources maintenance program for the CL-215 water bombers. I raise with particular concern questions about the competition NR-2010-89 for 10 engineers for the maintenance program for the water bombers.

Eleven-month contracts were terminated for qualified personnel and, subsequently, engineers who were wholly unfamiliar with these aircraft were hired for the permanent positions. In the competition, the job specifications written said only a willingness to acquire the CL-215 endorsement was necessary. Would it not have been an asset to require the endorsement on these aircraft for the engineers who were hired?

We now have a situation where engineers in Dryden, who are sent out to Red Lake during the fire season, will have to get approval for their endorsements from qualified engineers at great expense to the ministry, where that would not have been required if they had hired qualified staff. The integrity of the CL-215 program has been compromised. Not only have qualified and able personnel been coerced out of their jobs, but they have been replaced by undertrained and

unqualified people who will have to take a year to qualify.

## HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

**Mr Cousens:** On behalf of the people of York region and southern York region, I would like to just call upon the Minister of Transportation (Mr Fulton) to be able to have a smile on his face tomorrow so that we can all smile when the budget comes out and there is an announcement that there is going to be a significant increase in funding for Highway 407.

Should that come through, the people around greater Metropolitan Toronto will begin to realize that the government is putting its money where its mouth is and our smiles will be meaningful. Right now, the traffic is chaos. We need to have an investment in transportation and in that infrastructure. Highway 407 should be very high in those priorities.

## VISITOR

**The Speaker:** Just before I call the next order of business, I would like to inform the members that we have a guest in the Speaker's gallery, Dr Daniel Micallef. Dr Micallef is a member of Parliament from Malta and a former Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta.

## STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

### TOURISM REDEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

**Hon Mr O'Neil:** I would like to take this opportunity to announce that the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation is reviving the tourism redevelopment incentive program, otherwise known as TRIP.

The eight-year program helped to finance 351 tourism projects, representing a total investment of \$250 million and creating well over 2,400 jobs. The new TRIP offers loan guarantees of up to \$1 million for new projects and up to \$750,000 to improve or expand existing operations. It also offers interest subsidies of up to three per cent per year for up to three years.

TRIP is only one of a broad range of tools we place in the hands of the tourism industry, tools which can help to open the doors to financial assistance programs worth \$50 million. This particular tool will help fulfil the government's commitment to encourage the physically disabled to take advantage of all possible sports, fitness and recreational opportunities. As of now, all projects receiving new TRIP funding must be accessible to the physically disabled.

The new TRIP, in keeping with the long-term economic development strategy of the throne speech, will help tourism entrepreneurs invest in themselves and their communities. As part of that strategy, my ministry is directing its efforts to successfully position the Ontario tourism industry within the increasingly integrated global economy. We are aggressively pursuing new markets and we are consolidating our resources to give more effective assistance to our clients.

We are targeting our support to small operators in regions where credit is difficult to secure and where a vibrant tourism industry is central to the viability of the local economy. Our industry consultants in 23 field offices throughout Ontario can help tourism entrepreneurs to identify the most effective assistance package and help secure the right kind of support.

In addition to TRIP, my ministry provides the industry with access to financial assistance from the Ontario development corporations, the Canada-Ontario tourism development agreement, Destinations East and Destinations North, the northern Ontario regional development program and more.

I urge all members to join in helping to build a stronger, more prosperous Ontario tourism industry by helping to bring the news of our many assistance programs to their constituents.

Following on today's announcement, and as this is Tourism Week, I would also like to introduce the special guest that we have in the members' gallery today, Peter Elmhirst, who is the chairman of Tourism Ontario. I would ask Peter to stand and be recognized.

## HOSPITAL INCENTIVES FUND

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** Today I am pleased to announce a \$10-million hospital incentives fund, a fund that will encourage hospitals to develop innovative ways of achieving more effective delivery of quality patient care. This new incentive program for hospitals is part of the transitional funding initiative now being developed by my ministry in association with the Ontario Hospital Association and the Ontario Council of Administrators of Teaching Hospitals.

For approved projects, the ministry will provide matching funds of up to \$500,000 to hospitals to develop new approaches for the more effective management of hospital resources and the provision of enhanced care to patients. Ministry representatives will be presenting details of this fund tomorrow at an OHA conference on new developments in hospital funding.

I am hopeful that some exciting new ideas and concepts will be developed in response to this hospital incentives fund, proposals that could be significant to the entire hospital community and the patients that it serves. My ministry wants to encourage innovations that can be shared with and benefit all the hospitals in this province. For example, there is potential to develop more effective ways of using hospital resources, including new types of day surgery, other outpatient services and physician-managed admitting systems.

Hospitals may look at human resource management and planning to try to improve productivity, job satisfaction, retention and recruitment. More effective scheduling systems for nurses could be developed, or hospitals might measure the health benefits to patients as a result of changes in certain treatment patterns, such as length of stay or the rate of readmission.

Projects will be funded for up to two years. Hospitals will be required to present an evaluation of the project at its conclusion so that the entire hospital system may benefit. Projects submitted for funding will be assessed by a joint review committee consisting of representatives from hospital management, health professionals, universities and government.

Aside from matching the amount of money being funded by the ministry, each hospital must be prepared to assume the full cost of the project after the evaluation period has ended.

Our hospitals are a source of creative people and fresh ideas. This fund is intended to mobilize these resources to develop new directions in hospital care. In partnership with the ministry, hospitals will be able to try out new approaches, new ideas and methods for better management of our very precious resources.

1350

## RESPONSES

### HOSPITAL INCENTIVES FUND

**Mr Reville:** Here comes the Minister of Health with instalment 4, in which she lavishly spends the taxpayers' money as she fights to save her ministerial life. Each succeeding announcement makes one wonder about the time zone in which the minister is living. She is going for broke today by finding \$10 million to give to an institution that has \$6 billion. After she beat up on the hospitals for a while, she has put away her stick and has come up with this tiny little carrot.

She is giving it to the hospitals, in which whole floors have disappeared. Call up Toronto General Hospital and ask what happened to the

haematology floor. Poof, it has vanished. Look at retention and recruitment in hospitals. Local 97 of the Ontario Nurses' Association has blacklisted the biggest hospital in this province. That is the kind of job the minister's hospitals are doing in dealing with their employees.

There is no question that hospitals are a source of creative people. When the previous government enriched community mental health spending, the hospitals got virtually 100 per cent of that money, and I think that is pretty shocking as well. The people of Ontario would be very happy if this government would start talking about health promotion instead of self-promotion.

### TOURISM REDEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

**Mr Farnan:** In response to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr O'Neil) and to this government in general, I want to draw their attention to the budget submission made by small business to the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon). The budget submission of small business said to the Treasurer of this province that the government should get out of the business of direct grants to business, that it should get out of the business of largess, which is simply a system of selective funding by ministerial handout for government favourites.

It should not be the business of the government to encourage access for the physically disabled; it should be mandatory that there be access for the physically disabled. It is a disgrace that a minister of this government would stand up and say, "We will encourage access for the physically disabled." In 1989, the disabled should have access and this government should be ashamed that it is still talking in terms of encouraging access.

If there are any funds available—we know the government has a huge resource of funds available only because it is bleeding the taxpayers of this province dry—small business is saying this: "Don't give it to your favourites. Don't go out and hand it, by ministerial cheques, to government supporters who simply attend your government functions at \$400 a plate. Put it in the form of an incentive to the small businesses of this province. Make it available to all the small businesses of this province. Make it fair and the small businesses of this province will then realize there is a stake for them in Ontario, that you do not have to be a huge corporation in order to get millions of dollars of largess because you happen to be in cahoots with this government."

This statement speaks very directly to the budget we are going to hear tomorrow. Two things in this budget tomorrow, the physically disabled—

**The Speaker:** I just hope you are not in advance. You are referring to the minister's statement?

**Mr Farnan:** Let me say that the physically disabled should not have to wait and simply have encouragement for access; it should be mandatory. The individuals who are hiring four and 20 employees, the small businesses of this province, are looking and they know this goes to the government, I say to my friends. It should be in the form of a tax incentive for all the small businesses of this province.

**Mr McLean:** After many months of consistent pressure, I am pleased to see the minister has done what I have asked him to do and reinstated this TRIP program. This program has served the tourist industry well over the past several years. It is an industry the ministry sees the value of. I hope this announcement today is not to lighten the load that may hit them tomorrow.

I welcome this announcement because I know many small businesses in this province that this has helped. I am pleased to see the minister has reinstated the program and hope many small businesses take advantage of it.

#### HOSPITAL INCENTIVES FUND

**Mr Eves:** I am not going to say much in response to the minister's statement today. I know that would meet with a lot of approval from the government benches anyway. We will wait until tomorrow to see what the real meat of the announcement is and comment on it then. So far it is \$10 million worth of window dressing, but we will wait to see the dressing. It would run the health system for about three hours.

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

##### INCOME TAX

**Mr B. Rae:** I have a question for the Treasurer today.

When he was the Treasurer after the 1985 election, just a few short years ago, Mr Wilson brought down his tax reform proposals. I want to remind the Treasurer of what he said at that time. He said, and I am quoting: "In my view this"—that is to say, a fair system—"can only be accomplished by moving to a system where provincial tax is based on a measure of income other than on federal tax."

I know the Treasurer has read, as I have, and has heard, as I have, the speculation concerning the possibility of yet another increase in the provincial income tax which, as the Treasurer knows, is a pure and simple tax on the amount of federal tax payable.

I want to ask the Treasurer this question: Given the extraordinary unfairness today of the federal tax system, an unfairness about which he himself has spoken on a number of occasions, what is holding him back? What is stopping him from saying to the people of Ontario, "We are going to have an Ontario income tax system that is administered by the government of Ontario that is based on our own standards of fairness and justice"?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Common sense. The honourable member will know that there is sufficient flexibility in the tax collection agreement that allows us to have a tax reduction program that eliminates about 250,000 to 260,000 people from paying provincial taxes who do pay federal taxes.

At the other end—he knows this because I have mentioned it a couple of times in the past week—we have a 10 per cent surtax on incomes above \$80,000. So we have reintroduced an additional measure of progressivity that I know he would support, however insufficient he might deem it to be.

Directly in answer to his question, I have not given up hope that the federal authorities will within the next 12 months see the usefulness of the proposal the honourable member has put forward and allow provinces to levy their taxes on taxable income. That would mean the flexibility we otherwise forfeit would be restored.

1400

**Mr B. Rae:** The Treasurer will know full well that the current collection agreement between the feds and the province requires that the province accept the federal definition of income, which is why he said, when Mr Wilson announced tax reform some time ago, the exact opposite of what he is saying today. Instead of saying that the current system is flexible enough, he describes the personal income tax system and the existing collection agreement, and I am quoting, "as too rigid." That is what the Treasurer said when he was asked directly about it a short time ago.

What is flexible about a tax system in Ontario that means \$477 million in capital gains is lost in revenue to the provincial government, when there are 3,000 people who are making over \$50,000 in this province who are not paying any

tax regardless of whether there is a surtax or not and—

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I have not given up hope that negotiations with the government of Canada will restore sufficient flexibility so that the policies of the government independent of, let's say, Mr Wilson, would be forthcoming. But even if we had that flexibility, I am not at all sure our view of what is fair and equitable would be the same as that of the Leader of the Opposition. As a matter of fact, I hope and pray it would not.

**Mr B. Rae:** I can assure the Treasurer those hopes and prayers are felt equally strongly on this side of the House.

**The Speaker:** Final supplementary?

**Mr B. Rae:** I have a final supplementary to the Treasurer. I know the Treasurer realizes there has been a dramatic shift of taxation away from those with the greatest wealth in this country, not only in the last few years but in the last 25 years. He will know that in the last 25 years, Canada has effectively abolished all taxation on wealth and has effectively abolished all taxation on inheritance.

The Treasurer was particularly critical when Mr Wilson brought in the capital gains exemption. He knows Canada stood 13th on the table of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development 25 years ago and now stands 23rd when it comes to taxation of wealth.

**The Speaker:** Question?

**Mr B. Rae:** Why has the Treasurer rejected out of hand any taxation on inheritance, any taxation on wealth in Ontario when the evidence is overwhelming that Canada is falling way behind?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I think the honourable member would know that there is competition even in revenue-producing processes. We have moved away from the taxing of estates and inherited wealth in all the jurisdictions in Canada. Before that, it led some of our richest citizens to pick up their bag and baggage and move out of Canada. The late lamented E. P. Taylor died yesterday and his estate will be probated in the Bahamas.

I think the honourable member will remember, though perhaps at his age he will not, that when succession duties were still chargeable in this jurisdiction and other provinces got out of that business and even gift taxes were not chargeable, there was a considerable exodus of wealth from this province to those tax havens, so that the process in Canada has been to tax the ability to

pay on a measure based on income as one of the main taxes. Naturally, there are other taxes.

I appreciate the honourable member's recalling my objection to the initiative taken by Mr Wilson, when he first became Minister of Finance, to exempt a substantial amount of capital gains. I am very glad to see that in his recent budget he has restricted that substantially, except of course for farmers in the transference of their lands.

**The Speaker:** New question.

**Mr B. Rae:** Under this Treasurer, Ontario is becoming a tax haven worthy of the Cayman Islands.

**The Speaker:** Your question is to which minister?

#### CONTAMINATED FUEL

**Mr B. Rae:** My next question is to the Premier. I want to ask the Premier this question arising out of the problem we have been dealing with directly in this House, the possible poisoning of fuel and what various ministers and authorities have known and did not know. My question is directly to the Premier. It relates to the statement the Premier himself made just the other day when he was meeting with the governors.

The Premier said it is a question of "raising the consciousness level and then sort of getting an agreement to put the regulatory authorities on the case." That is what the Premier said when he met with the governors at the hotel on Thursday night.

I would like to ask the Premier this simple question: How does he square raising the consciousness level with the fact that his own Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley) did not tell the Premier, did not tell the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan), did not tell the Solicitor General (Mrs Smith) and did not tell the federal authorities in any way, shape or form about the information he had on his desk in the month of January 1989?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** My honourable friend is quite right. I did discuss this with my colleagues the governors. They arrived in this country at a time the great debate was going on with respect to tainted fuels. Some of them expressed concerns, as the member may know, that it may be happening in their states as well.

We agreed to share information in that regard and with the regulatory authorities. Governor Thompson of Wisconsin is going to have a meeting within 30 to 45 days gathering all the various enforcement agencies together to see if we can assist each other on this problem that

appears to be transboundary. That is the first part of the member's question.

On the second part of his question, he is asking me to call into question the abilities or the judgement of the Minister of the Environment. Let me say, and I say this without reservation, he has exercised superb judgement in this matter, in my opinion. I have great confidence in his ability to handle it, far more confidence than I have in the member's ability to deal with a question like this, let me tell him.

**Mr B. Rae:** Let me then ask the Premier a very specific question, since he did not answer the very specific question I put to him. I will put it to him and ask him to answer this question.

Does the Premier agree with the undeniable, indisputable fact that the Minister of the Environment did not tell the Premier, did not tell the Minister of Health, did not tell the Solicitor General and did not tell the federal Minister of the Environment about this question from the month of January, the month of February, the month of March and the month of April until such time as the item appeared in the *Globe and Mail* newspaper? Does the Premier approve of that behaviour by his own Minister of the Environment?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Certain allegations were made. There are investigations going on all the time through his enforcement branch, as there are with the Ontario Provincial Police and many other investigative and regulatory agencies. I am not aware of all the investigations going on, nor should I be. I think he handled the situation absolutely properly. I really say to the member, as a lawyer, as someone who is presumably concerned with enforcement, that if he thought it through with any depth, he would come to the conclusion that he did absolutely the right thing.

**Mr B. Rae:** All right, Premier, let's have it out. Let's have it out. Do you want to stand up on your feet? Stand up on your feet and tell us how, Premier, come on—

**The Speaker:** Order. Perhaps the questions and the responses could be put through the Speaker.

**Mr B. Rae:** Perhaps the Premier can explain to this House, since he has not had the courtesy to do so since this first became public some time ago, how it is possible that one minister of the crown in this country knew about a problem back in January and did not tell the Premier, did not tell the Minister of Health, did not tell the Solicitor General and did not tell the federal

authorities about the information he had available to him in the month of January.

Despite all the Premier's bravado, and I know he has to do that, can he tell us how that is in any way, sense, shape or form helping those citizens who were troubled by this information when they heard it, how it is dealing with a public health crisis and how it is in fact resolving the very real problems we now face in this province?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I want us to be very serious about this. My friend talks about false bravado. I can tell the member that I have never seen such an exhibition of false bravado as this person would use in this House. When he stands and talks about—he just used the term—a health care crisis in this province, he has no evidence, no facts whatsoever. The minister is picking up the facts, and the member for his own partisan purposes would try to create the impression that there is a health care crisis. My friend has been thoroughly irresponsible and he has not, in my opinion, respect for the kinds of things he was taught in law school about establishing the case before you draw a conclusion. He has been the irresponsible one in this matter.

1410

## BUDGET

**Mr Brandt:** My question is for the Treasurer.

While he and the leader of the New Democrats engage in the further carving up of the taxpayers' carcass in terms of the various methods by which the government can extract still more taxes from the people of Ontario, I want to point out to the Treasurer, and for the edification of my friend the leader of the New Democrats, that the Ontario tax system now extracts, according to the Fraser Institute, some 52 per cent of the income, on the basis of its last budget, not on the basis of the budget the Treasurer plans on bringing in tomorrow. That is up from some 45 per cent just a few short years ago.

In other words, the total tax grab on the part of the government of Ontario continues to go up rather substantially without any relief for the taxpayer—

**The Speaker:** Do you have a question?

**Mr Brandt:** —in spite of the fact that we have enjoyed since 1983, fully two years before this government came to power—

**The Speaker:** Order. Do you have a question?

**Mr Brandt:** My question to the Treasurer is, when can the taxpayers of this province expect some relief in a budget in terms of a tax reduction?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I do not know whether it would risk my tenure if I answered it with one word, which would be "tomorrow," because the member will not know whether that is correct or not until tomorrow.

I think the honourable member, when he would take thought of his question, would have to remember that the government of which he was a part just four years ago left the province with a deficit of over \$3 billion.

The budget he was supporting on his way out of office was such that it took 16 months of revenue to pay off our debt, and that number is now below 11 months. He would be aware that we have moved in a position of fiscal responsibility so that the number of cents in every dollar of tax that is required for us to service the debt is below 11 cents, but in the Progressive Conservative government in Ottawa it is more like 33 cents.

Without being immodest or patting myself on the back, I would say I may be in danger of too much fiscal responsibility.

**Mr Brandt:** At the time the new government took over, the Treasurer made a statement that the finances of this province were in good shape when he inherited the economy in the province. I have to say to the Treasurer that that was quite unlike the unholy mess our federal colleagues inherited in 1984 in Ottawa, and he knows it.

I want to say to the Treasurer as a reasonable man—

**The Speaker:** By way of question.

**Hon Mr Riddell:** This is last night's dissertation. Was your speech worth \$350 last night?

**Mr Brandt:** It is worth more than my friend's ever was.

I want to say to the Treasurer, if I might—

**The Speaker:** A question?

**Mr Brandt:** There have been transfers of responsibilities and portions of the tax load to both boards of education through new programs and new demands on their services and upon municipalities. We are seeing, across this province, double-digit increases in excess of 10 per cent for local municipal tax increases. People are concerned about losing their—

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Brandt:** Is the minister prepared to stand up and say: "Enough is enough. There will be no tax increase on Wednesday"?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I think the last time I said that was the budget just two years ago. Yes, it was the budget two years ago. So when the member asks when I am going to do that again, I

am not prepared to make a definite projection, but perhaps the honourable member might assist me in that.

I can say that I am concerned at the views expressed by school boards and municipal councils that they are inadequately funded by provincial resources. The honourable member has heard me refer to the decisions made by Michael Wilson; he should be sending the provinces more money. We are probably all correct, but when they look at the exchange of views among the politicians and treasurers at three levels of government, the taxpayers might not be blamed if they say, "We are the people who pay the bills."

I believe it is incumbent on us, as politicians at the provincial level, to simply respond to the requirements that face us. It is our constitutional responsibility to see that we have an adequate level of education quality; that our health care programs are properly funded; that our roads are good and progressively leading to the kinds of development in the province that we want to support; that we have environmental programs that have sufficient capital, for example, to see that they are carried on in a progressive way.

We simply have to make those decisions on the basis of our responsibilities, and that is what I intend to do in the budget that I present tomorrow.

**Mr Brandt:** I hope the Treasurer would break the trend that he has established over the past four years whereby he has now received recognition from virtually every single jurisdiction in Canada as being the Treasurer who has raised taxes and government expenditures faster than in any jurisdiction in Canada. That is the legacy he leaves. Nobody is spending at a quicker rate than he is, fully double the rate of inflation.

In the last budget, the Treasurer raised taxes \$1.3 billion, and that did not include the revenue increases as a result of the normal expansion of the economy. I would like to remind the Treasurer that the last time he brought in a balanced budget with no tax increases was—

**The Speaker:** Do you have a question?

**Mr Brandt:** Certainly I have a question. I will ask it for the next 15 to 20 seconds. Is that too long?

**The Speaker:** Plenty.

**Mr Brandt:** I like to speak slowly so that the Treasurer and I can stay on the same wavelength.

The last budget the Treasurer brought in that did not include a tax increase was just before the

1987 election, just to help him out with his memory.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Brandt:** Does he intend to bring in substantive tax increases in tomorrow's budget? That is the question.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** In referring to the rate of expansion of the economy, I think the honourable member was extremely helpful to all the members of the House, because they would know that although we have been spending more money to recoup the insufficiencies that we inherited and also to meet the needs of the community, we have kept our spending well within the boundaries of the expansion of the economy.

As far as tomorrow's budget is concerned, I assure him that there will be no tax increases whatsoever that are not imminently necessary and applied in a fair and judicious way.

1420

## HEALTH CARE

**Mr Eves:** I have a question of the Minister of Health. There is some concern out there this morning that Ontario is going to implement an envelope system of funding the health care system in the province, possibly as early as next week. Is the minister planning on doing such a thing?

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** I am aware of a press conference sponsored by the Progressive Conservative members for Physicians for Change. I believe that is the name of the group. I have to tell the member that I am not familiar with this particular group. However, he should know that we are working with all of our partners in health care—physicians, nurses, all of the allied health professionals—and we are listening to their concerns. I want to tell him that I know of no regulations that were referred to this morning that were mentioned at this press conference.

**Mr Eves:** The minister still has not answered the question. The question is a very simple one. On 8 June 1988 I asked the Premier (Mr Peterson) in this House whether Ontario was considering rationing health care services in the province in any way, shape or form. He said no.

Is the minister in a position today to tell the people of Ontario unequivocally that she and the government are not even considering, in any way, shape or form, rationing health care services in the province of Ontario, that they are not going to put limits or caps on any spending

and that there is going to be universal access to the health care system for everybody in Ontario?

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** I want to assure the member opposite of my commitment to the fundamental principles of our medicare system which are just as valid and important today as they were when we began this journey two decades ago.

I want him to know that I believe that through quality assurance, through working together in partnership, with greater accountability within the system, we can ensure that those fundamental principles, the values that we hold so dear in our society, can be not only maintained but enhanced as we bring forth the kind of structural changes that will lead us confidently into the future.

**Mr Eves:** The minister still has not answered the question. The government in Quebec probably thinks it is providing a health care system in concert with the Canada Health Act. We on this side of the House, at least in this party, do not happen to think so.

The consequences of the Quebec model of rationing health care have led to isolated communities being without certain services, a deterioration of health care; they have led to physicians leaving the province of Quebec, and they have led to a growth in clinics because that is the only way physicians and other health care professionals are prepared to work in the province of Quebec.

Is the government even remotely considering that or any other type of envelope or rationing of health care services for the province of Ontario? Yes or no? Is the government considering it or is it not considering it?

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** I think it is important for us to be very clear that we have a national medicare system in this country. The Canada Health Act governs the medicare system. I can tell him that nothing is further from my agenda than the words "rationing of health care services." In fact, I want equity and access to effective quality health, the very best that we can provide in this province as close to home as possible. I want the people of this province to have the opportunity to be well.

## ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**Mr Philip:** I have a question to the Minister of Citizenship. The minister has kindly provided to me, at my request, a copy of the terms of reference of the review he has ordered into the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Would the minister agree that this review of the human rights commission, which he has ordered as of today, does not provide for public

hearings, does not provide for the calling and questioning of present and past employees publicly, does not provide for the protection of present employees who may have testimony to give on this important matter and does not even provide for the public release of that report when it is completed?

Why would the minister proceed on such an important issue in such a secretive manner rather than having a full public inquiry, which the public has a right to?

**Hon Mr Phillips:** I think it is important to remember two things. One is that I said in the House, I guess it was a week ago, and the chief commissioner has repeated it on many occasions, that he is anxious to appear in public at an all-party legislative committee to review what the commission is doing so that there is a full public airing of the issue.

The second thing is that I was anxious that we delve into the specific allegations that were raised last week around the hiring and termination of certain specific individuals.

What I have said is that this review must take place within two weeks and that the results of that will be a matter of public record.

**Mr Philip:** The allegations which were made by employees and ex-employees were very specific. Why is it that this minister does not call for a full public inquiry in which not only Mr Anand but also past employees would appear and answer questions under oath, so that the public that is questioning what has happened at the human rights commission would find out once and for all what has happened, since the human rights commission under its present form cannot proceed in an effective manner? Why is the minister so against a full public inquiry?

**Hon Mr Phillips:** I am actually in favour of a full public hearing. I think it is extremely important that the commission appear before a legislative committee. It is extremely important that the commission have an opportunity to lay out its plans and lay out its priorities.

I think the second thing is, I am anxious that there be a thorough look at the specific allegations, that that be done quickly and that the results of that study be a matter of public record. I do not think I could be more forthcoming.

**Mrs Marland:** May I first of all thank the Minister of Citizenship for reacting to my request for immunity to those employees at the human rights commission who would like to come forward with information that may throw some more light on the very serious allegations of the last week without fear of persecution.

**The Speaker:** Is your question to that minister?

**Mrs Marland:** My question is to the Minister of Citizenship. While I do not applaud the actions of Patricia Starr, the chairman of Ontario Place Corp, I do applaud her move to take a leave of absence and step aside from her post until the investigation of wrongdoing has been completed. Ms Starr holds a far less sensitive position than Raj Anand of the human rights commission, yet she has shown the decency to step aside from her job, recognizing the conflict.

Without the minister washing his hands of this matter any further, if Mr Anand does not have the diplomacy to step aside, why will the minister not ask him to step aside pending the outcome of the investigation into the commission?

**Hon Mr Phillips:** There are two things on that. One is that we are talking about a period of two to three weeks; two weeks for this investigation. The second thing is to remember that, I think, in the particular case the member is referring to there was an investigation done. There was someone who looked at it and there was a report prepared on it.

I frankly urge all of us to be cautious about reaching conclusions in a sensitive matter such as this before one has any evidence on it. I just think it is very important that we deal with this. Due process should take hold here.

**Mrs Marland:** The minister sent over the terms of reference for the investigation, for which I thank him, but I notice there are a number of areas that are not addressed in this investigation.

One of them is where the \$1 million that was allocated last year to the human rights commission has been expended and what the human rights commission was going to do with the additional \$3 million the minister gave it the week before last. I ask the minister whether he does not see that expenditure of \$4 million as being something that should be within the terms of reference for the investigation.

Also, while the minister is having his internal staff look at that—and I recognize there are staff from two other ministries as well—why is it that he is reacting to this crisis only at this point in time? Did he know about it prior to the headlines of last week in the newspapers?

**The Speaker:** Order. That is your third question.

**Hon Mr Phillips:** There are several questions there. I will try to deal with the last one first.

I think it is important to remember that from the day I came in as minister, the human rights commission was my number one priority, because it was determined that there was a need for substantial change in the commission. I think that is of no surprise to anyone in the House. So there is no question of the need for substantial change clearly identified, as I say, 18 months ago.

The second thing is that the all-party legislative committee clearly needs to look at where we had planned to allocate the resources. Where the human rights commission had planned to allocate the resources was both in terms of dealing with faster resolution of complaints—and I think, actually, it submitted its plan to all members of the Legislature in the last week or so—and beginning to deal with some of the systemic issues of discrimination. I am certain the all-party legislative committee will want to look at that.

I think the third thing members should be aware of is that if they read the terms carefully, they do refer to this audit, the human resources review, looking at how the new funds were allocated in 1988-89 and how they are planned to be allocated in 1989-90.

1430

### HIGHWAY SAFETY

**Mr Owen:** I have a question for the Minister of Transportation.

Some of my constituents in the Barrie-Bradford area commute to Toronto daily, and they have brought to my attention what they perceive as an increase in the number of speeding transports and buses. Interestingly, only this morning one of the Toronto radio stations commented on the very same thing and said they have difficulty in trying to catch the speeding transports and bus drivers because they communicate with one another and alert other transport and bus drivers as to radar traps which are located on highways 400 and 401.

I am wondering if the minister would have any information or any statistics which could identify whether this is a problem of transports and buses speeding on our major highways.

**Hon Mr Fulton:** I thank my colleague from Simcoe Centre for his question and his ongoing interest in highway safety.

There is no question that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of commercial vehicles, tractor-trailers in particular, on Ontario's highways, created by a number of events: the offloading from the seaway, the offloading from

rail and, frankly, Ontario's booming economy in the last four years.

However, there is no evidence that, as a percentage, the truck transports are responsible for any greater number of accidents than you and I might be in our personal vehicles. Having said that, there is no question that when they do have an accident, it gains much more attention and prominence, but statistics in fact suggest that the ratio is not out of what we would expect to be norm.

**Mr Owen:** The minister has referred to the fact that because of their bulk and because of their size, if they are involved in an accident, it is usually a very serious accident. This has been pointed out to me again and again by my constituents.

In the past, Ontario has followed a procedure where it has had lower speeds for transport trucks. I know that the province, in its wisdom, some years ago did away with the differing speeds, but I wonder if the minister has thought whether his office should again look at the different speeds or whether that might be a further contributing cause to more accidents.

**Hon Mr Fulton:** Obviously, we are very concerned with highway safety. That is really our primary mandate as Ministry of Transportation. We would share any concern and any effort to reduce accidents and fatalities and injuries on our highways. I think our recent legislation, our commercial vehicle operator's registration in Bill 86, will address in no uncertain way a number of measures that will enhance vehicle safety, particularly in the commercial field.

Our studies here and elsewhere, however, would indicate that a variable in speed limits in fact contributes to unsafe conditions on the highways. We are not presently considering it. I am not familiar with too many jurisdictions that would and it is not within our purview to do that, certainly in the foreseeable future.

### USE OF LOGO

**Mr Farnan:** I would like to draw the attention of members to this logo, Skills Okay. The logo for the new project to improve the image of skilled occupations province-wide has elicited the following negative reactions among members of the Cambridge community industrial training committee, the very people expected to promote the project.

"It offends women," says Paul Olinski, manager of training and development at Babcock and Wilcox Canada.

"It's disgusting; it's sexist," says Carol Webb, co-ordinator of the Cambridge CITC.

**The Speaker:** The question is to which minister?

**Mr Farnan:** My question is to the Minister of Skills Development.

"It's revolutionary. It is a military logo. It is militant," says Jeff DeJong, apprentice electrician, Babcock and Wilcox.

Finally, "What has it got to do with trades? It's not even mentioned."

"Okay" is seen as a negative rather than a positive slogan.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. The member has no question, so—

**Mr Farnan:** My question to the minister is: Will the minister—

Interjections.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** He's putting the question.

**The Speaker:** Put it quickly.

**Mr Farnan:** Will the minister withdraw the logo from the community industrial training committee project funded by the Ministry of Skills Development and request the changes so that the campaign will not be so offensive?

**Hon Mr Curling:** I had hoped that the member would have brought that to my attention. As he knows, we toured his area with him. The type of work we are doing in that area is quite impressive, also endorsed by him. I will look into the matter of that logo which the member says is offensive and get back to him on it.

**Mr Farnan:** Mr Speaker, I sat behind your chair with the minister only two weeks ago and reminded him to get on with this. Perhaps the minister would comment on the following process. The local CITCs were not given an opportunity to take the logo back to their local groups for discussion. They were told: "If you don't accept the logo, the entire project comes to a halt." The logo was already at the printers when—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Farnan:** Being aware of the concerns of the professionals within the field who say this is offensive, who say it is sexist, who say it is militaristic, is the minister going to withdraw the logo?

**The Speaker:** Order. I wish all members would remember that the way to put a question is to request information, not particularly to give information.

**Hon Mr Curling:** As I indicated, I will look into the matter and get back to the member on it.

#### SOCIAL ASSISTANCE REVIEW BOARD

**Mrs Cunningham:** My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. Last year the Social Assistance Review Board was restructured in order to delete a backlog of appeals, and on December 8 the minister stated in the House, "Mrs Campbell...indicated to me that, by the end of this month or early next month, they expect to have the bulk of the backup caught up." We are aware that board members are still signing decisions from a year ago, so my question is, when will this backlog of cases be deleted?

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** My understanding from the chairman of the board is that as of the end of December the backlog effectively was caught up. They have, I think, somewhere in the neighbourhood of about 300 decisions which they deal with approximately once a month. That is what they had on their order book, if you will, at that point in time. Their sense is that they can handle roughly that many each month. That is how many they had. Given the kind of time line they are looking at, they say it was caught up.

However, Mrs Campbell did make one observation to me, that there were two or three former members of the board who still had decisions to sign who were being—let me put it carefully—somewhat difficult to deal with. Since she had no capacity to force them to sign it until they were completely satisfied it was exactly the way they wanted it, she indicated that there were continuing to be a few cases—I think it was in the neighbourhood of about 20 or so—that were dragging on an awful lot longer than she wanted them to but over which she had relatively little control. She simply said she would continue to deal with them as quickly as she could.

**Mrs Cunningham:** My supplementary question will change just a little bit, because I thought the reason we were building this review board was to take care of a backlog. Now the public ought to know we have 21 members sitting on it earning almost \$60,000, many of whom are called vice-chairman and earning another \$5,000. This is expensive. We will give the minister the chance to answer this question. We thought this \$4-million program was to help with a backlog. Now I am hearing we do not have a backlog. That is one case a day, at a \$60,000 salary. That is too much. We are looking at a budget tomorrow from the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) who will—

**The Speaker:** Question.

**Mrs Cunningham:** —probably talk about more than four per cent. My question is this: With a 35 per cent increase over just two years, what is the minister going to do to restructure that board to wind it back down now that we no longer have a backlog?

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** The restructuring of the board was not just to deal with the backlog. I would remind the honourable member that a total review of that board was done by an outside consulting firm and indicated several changes that needed to be made: a different chairman; full-time members; legal staff on-staff; an expanded support staff; new facilities away from this government building; in most cases, at least three people to do the hearings, and board members who were located in several places around the province.

Those were the restructuring things that needed to be done and that have been done. That is what the money was spent on. It was not spent just on catching the backlog. We indicated that the backlog would be done. The board would then go ahead and, in my judgement, the board is operating quite effectively today.

1440

## TAXATION

**Mr Faubert:** My question is to the Treasurer. In reviewing the federal budget, I am concerned with what could be perceived as a trend on the part of the federal Progressive Conservative government to move aggressively into traditional provincial areas of revenue-generating jurisdiction. The national sales tax scheme is one well-known example.

However, I have also noticed that the federal government will also be taxing large corporations on capital in excess of \$10 million at the rate of 0.17 per cent of capital. I would ask the Treasurer whether this has not always been traditionally a provincial revenue source. Does this federal move into traditionally provincial tax jurisdiction not limit the Treasurer's revenue-generating options to some degree?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** It is a very useful question indeed. The honourable member is correct in his surmise that it has been a provincial source of revenue. The capital tax actually has been much criticized by corporations, particularly banks, since it is not a tax on productivity but a tax on the capital that can produce productivity.

However, the way the tax returns have come from some corporations, I feel that the capital tax has been necessary and it is 0.8 per cent, as the

members know, as it applies to financial institutions.

I would agree that the movement of the federal government into that field does mean the invasion of a provincial area of taxation, but of course it has every constitutional and legal right to invade as it sees fit. One of the areas that does concern me just as much as the one the honourable member raised is the decision taken by the federal Minister of Finance to move into the gas tax field in a big way. The honourable member would know that it now taxes gasoline in Ontario at a higher rate than the province does, even though it does not build any roads.

I do not know what the defence is when the federal authorities move into an area such as the gas tax. Should we retreat? Should we stay the same? Or should we maintain our position?

**Mr Faubert:** I can recall, as we all can, the big public outcry over the Miller budget of 1982, which taxed fast foods in Ontario for purchases as low as \$2. I think we can also recall the relief felt by students, young people and other Ontarians when this government lifted that tax when elected in 1985.

Could the Treasurer advise this House if the national sales tax plan proposed by this Progressive Conservative federal budget will once again place that undesirable tax on fast foods?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I am sure that the honourable member's reference to the Miller budget of 1982 placed a cold hand on everyone's heart because, in spite of what some honourable members have said, the Miller Progressive Conservative budget of 1982 was the biggest tax grab in the history of the province—that is, related to the actual productivity of the province at the time.

I was very glad to be the Treasurer who removed the sales tax from fast foods up to \$4. I have received many letters thanking me for that. I think the count now is up to about six. But I believe the leadership the Premier (Mr Peterson) gave in that regard was much appreciated by everyone.

In answer to the member's question, as far as I understand the new federal sales tax, it will reimpose not our tax, which was then seven per cent, but a nine per cent tax on fast foods.

## SHOAL LAKE WATER QUALITY

**Mr Hampton:** In the absence of the Premier, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. The Premier, in his earlier answer today to my leader who is the Leader of the Opposition, indicated that discussions have been held with

governors of the Great Lakes states regarding transboundary pollution and transboundary movement of hazardous waste.

Given that the Premier acknowledges that environmental pollution is a problem that crosses international and provincial boundaries, would the Minister of the Environment commit the government of Ontario to holding public hearings in northwestern Ontario and in the city of Winnipeg, if it desires, on the issue of the proposed Shoal Lake gold mine development before that development goes ahead?

**Hon Mr Bradley:** I want to assure the member that any proposal that is put before us, and this proposal in particular, would receive extremely great scrutiny from an environmental point of view.

I think what the people of Winnipeg would be interested in, and certainly I would share that concern, is that there would be no damage to their water supply; that there would not be an adverse impact on their water supply, which, as the member points out, is Shoal Lake.

I understand that, as a result of some discussions which have taken place, the mining company has its proposal forward and has already decided to move one part of its process which has an effluent away from the island itself, and that in fact further discussions will be forthcoming.

I do not know whether we would be allowed to, or wise to, have hearings in another province. Certainly I agree with the member and others who have advocated this that there should be a good opportunity for all of those who are directly affected by such a proposal to have the input into a hearing. I would assume that there is going to be a hearing into this matter—

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr Hampton:** I am somewhat astounded at the Minister of the Environment's answer, because this is the Minister of the Environment who insists that he should have some input on an incinerator in Detroit, who insists that acid rain in Ohio is Ontario's business. Now he has the government of another province saying, "Look, your development may affect us; we would like to have public hearings."

Will the minister commit himself to public hearings involving a city whose water supply may be threatened by the arsenic and cyanide that are necessarily involved with gold mining? A simple answer. They have requested the hearings; will he commit himself—

**The Speaker:** Minister?

**Hon Mr Bradley:** In fact, I met previously with a former Minister of the Environment of Manitoba concerning this matter to discuss any concerns they might have, because they have, as I understand it, one of the few places in North America that has an untreated water supply. Most of ours would have a treated water supply. I understand their desire to maintain that.

There have been discussions with the Ministry of Energy. I want to ensure that those people have input into this process. I have indicated already to them that there will be a hearing on this matter; that they will have that kind of input; that they will be invited to have that kind of input.

Mr Cummings, the minister, and others both federal and provincial, Mr Axworthy included, have indicated an interest in this and the ability to have some input. Certainly we welcome and encourage that kind of input into this process. The member can be assured that that will be the case, because our ultimate desire, I think his and mine and the people of Winnipeg's, would be to ensure that the water supply of the city of Winnipeg is protected. I know there are many people in northern Ontario concerned about the jobs—

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

#### TORONTO JAIL

**Mr Cureatz:** I have a question to the Minister of Correctional Services. I would like to inform the minister that Bill Walker of the Toronto Star and I had the opportunity of visiting the Don Jail, and at that time—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Cureatz:** I would just like to quote Ian Harvey of the Toronto Sun, quoting one of the inmates, who said, "We're here because we screwed up, but that doesn't mean we should be treated like animals."

Interjections.

1450

**Mr Cureatz:** I know all my colleagues in the House will do me the courtesy of allowing me to ask this question.

As the minister is well aware, there is extensive overcrowding in the Don Jail. Could he bring us up to date on what his plans are to alleviate the overcrowding? Does he think that the making of new spaces available in the surrounding Metropolitan Toronto area is necessarily the way to alleviate the overcrowding? Does he not think that new avenues of rehabilitation might be a way to alleviate the problem?

**The Speaker:** Order. Minister.

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** First of all, I would like to pass on my condolences to the member that he found himself in the Toronto Jail. I hope he was treated with great courtesy while he was there and enjoyed his experience.

As the member will know, from time to time the correctional services are faced with an overcapacity problem. I am sure the member is aware that this is cyclical in nature. For example, when there is a major arrest in a community, obviously the correctional services cannot turn away people charged by the police and, therefore, the count rises. What we try to do in that circumstance is to make sure that we move people around to other facilities that have lower counts.

I am aware of the tremendous growth in the Golden Horseshoe area and I am examining the detention bed needs in this area. I opened up 86 new detention beds last month in Mimico and will be looking at the needs in this particular area in Metro. We are making some announcements soon.

**Mr Cureatz:** As the minister well knows, it is chronic overcrowding and he has yet to resolve the problem. In addition to the overcrowding, time and time again both the correctional officers and the inmates have brought to his ministry's attention the physical plan. There are extensive problems with the air circulation—something fundamental to human beings, and that is breathing.

In regard to the air circulation and the extensive problem of heat during the summer-time, not to mention the din that occurs on the various floors and ranges in the wards of the institution, what are the minister's plans for the immediate future to alleviate the air circulation difficulties that are causing severe problems to both staff and inmates, as summer is coming upon us?

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** Recently, we did conduct some air quality tests in the Toronto Jail. The counts for carbon dioxide proved to be well within acceptable limits.

However, tests for micro-organisms did prove to be high. Since the results of those tests have come in, we have made adjustments to the air handling system and the counts for micro-organisms have been reduced. I would like to assure the member that I have now entered into an agreement with the Minister of Government Services (Mr Patten) to tender for engineering air quality studies, which will commence shortly. We will have those results in August of this year.

## HOSPITAL SERVICES

**Mr D. R. Cooke:** My question is for the Minister of Health. The minister is aware that there has been a great deal of effort and planning at the local level in Kitchener with regard to rationalizing certain selected services between Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital and St Mary's General Hospital.

As part of the most recent rationalization plan, I understand that there is a request for an approval of a CAT scanner at St Mary's Hospital. I wonder if the minister would respond to that request and also give us an update on the rationalization plan.

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** I would like to thank the member for a very timely question. In fact, it was just yesterday that I responded with my support for the collaborative efforts of the two hospitals. I also would like to acknowledge the leadership role played by the district health council. I believe that this is a very effective use of community resources as the two institutions came together with the DHC to develop a plan to deliver the services for a changing community in a very effective way.

Regarding the request for an additional CAT scanner, I will be requesting the district health council to assess the need for CAT scanners in the region. I will ask the DHC to undertake the review with regard to what already exists within the region and to look at the options around providing that service in its community and I will look forward to its recommendations.

**Mr Pope:** The answer is no.

**Mr D. R. Cooke:** The answer was not no.

As I also understand, the rationalization plan includes provision for a dialysis service at Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital. Would the minister please inform the House of the ministry's intention with regard to the dialysis situation at K-W Hospital?

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** As the member knows, I am very aware of his interest in this important matter to his community. I want him to know that I am very aware of the planning which has gone on between the two hospitals and that as a part of this, there is a proposal to relocate and consolidate dialysis services within the Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital.

We place dialysis services as a provincial priority, and I am certainly willing to receive a proposal from the hospital for specific changes that might be required to accommodate this change. I would once again like to acknowledge the interest of this member and the other members from this region and the support of the

district health council for what I see as a very important local planning initiative by two hospitals working together co-operatively.

### TRANSIT SERVICES

**Ms Bryden:** I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. The minister should be renamed the minister of traffic congestion, since he gives subway extension in Metropolitan Toronto a very low priority in his transportation planning.

Metro planners, in their Network 2011 report, put the Sheppard Avenue subway as number one on their priority list for extension of subways. Newspaper reports indicate that the minister is indicating that this year he will fund only their number four priority, a one-stop extension of the greatly underused Spadina subway.

Can the minister tell the House why he has apparently chosen to spend his scarce transportation dollars on subsidizing construction of a fourth-priority subway, which really goes nowhere, when the Sheppard Avenue subway is so urgently needed to relieve traffic congestion across the top of Metro and to get drivers out of their cars and into modern, efficient transit—

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Fulton:** I was unable to hear the last part of the question of the member for Beaches-Woodbine, but I do recall her asking the same question at estimates last fall and also her response that she drives to work each day and does not ride rapid transit, to my surprise.

The short answer is that she knows we have worked very closely with the Toronto Transit Commission and Metro authorities. Indeed, the Metro council only recently, I think two weeks ago, voted 26 to 6 to support the Spadina extension as its next initiative. I think that is a pretty clear indication of where we would like to go. It is certainly local decision-making, as the TTC and Metro council are justifiably elected to make those decisions.

The member will be aware that the Spadina alternative gives us several options in the future to extend in different directions and facilitate the ongoing needs for rapid transit in this great Metro area.

### PETITIONS

#### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr Pope:** I have a petition to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government of Ontario in its discussions with the Ontario Teachers' Federa-

tion on amendments to the Teachers' Superannuation Act has refused to allow an equal partnership between teachers and government in management of the pension fund, establishment of an acceptable contribution increase, benefit adjustments, equitable treatment of future surpluses and a satisfactory dispute resolution process,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to insist that the Treasurer of Ontario negotiate with the Ontario Teachers' Federation towards an equitable settlement."

It is signed by the teachers of Iroquois Falls Secondary School. I support their petition and have attached my signature to it.

**The Speaker:** I would say to the members that I have called for petitions, but it is difficult to hear.

### SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

**Mr Ferraro:** I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We hereby urge the Honourable Robert Nixon, Treasurer of Ontario, to release the \$200 million to \$400 million in his next budget in order to implement the first stage of the Judge Thomson report. We are aware that this will be a five-stage process aimed at encouraging self-reliance among welfare recipients.

"We are of the opinion that spending money to implement this report will ultimately save the province money in the areas of education, health and welfare and social services and that indeed spending money in the short term will save it in the long term."

This is signed by 128 members of my constituency and I have affixed my signature to it as well.

1500

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** I have a petition.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To act with us and for us to ensure a decent standard of living and dignity for all Ontario's people, and where many people in Ontario live on the edge of poverty and more than 360,000 children live in families with incomes below the poverty line, we urge you to implement the report of the Social Assistance Review Committee fully."

It is signed by 25 people in my riding plus me.

## LAND TRANSFER TAX

**Mr Wiseman:** I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislature Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas on February 17, in the Toronto Star, Treasurer Bob Nixon suggested tax changes, including 'increasing the land transfer tax'; and

"Whereas that will be the second time the Liberal government of Premier David Peterson has increased the land transfer tax, these taxes have risen by 300 per cent since 1985; and

"Whereas property owners will pay over \$560 million in land transfer taxes this year;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government of Premier David Peterson to stop punishing people who contribute to the economy! David Peterson, don't even think of raising the land transfer tax again!"

These petition cards have been collected by the St Catharines and District Real Estate Board. The petition has been signed and supported by myself.

## HOME CARE

**Mr Owen:** I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We support the expansion of home care and visiting nurses services as the most cost-efficient mode of health care delivery. We therefore want our government to adequately fund the Victorian Order of Nurses."

It is submitted under my signature.

## LAND TRANSFER TAX

**Mr Eves:** "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas on February 17, in the Toronto Star, Treasurer Bob Nixon suggested tax changes, including 'increasing the land transfer tax'; and

"Whereas that will be the second time the Liberal government of Premier David Peterson has increased the land transfer tax, these taxes have risen by 300 per cent since 1985; and

"Whereas property owners will pay over \$560 million in land transfer taxes this year;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government of Premier David Peterson to stop punishing people who contribute to the

economy! David Peterson, don't even think of raising the land transfer tax again!"

These petition cards have been collected by the Parry Sound, Sudbury, Kingston and Ottawa real estate boards and the petitions have my support and my signature.

**Mr Cousens:** I have a petition to present to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas on February 17, in the Toronto Star, Treasurer Bob Nixon suggested tax changes, including 'increasing the land transfer tax'; and

"Whereas that will be the second time the Liberal government of Premier David Peterson has increased the land transfer tax, these taxes have risen by 300 per cent since 1985; and

"Whereas property owners will pay over \$560 million in land transfer taxes this year;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government of Premier David Peterson to stop punishing people who contribute to the economy! David Peterson, don't even think of raising the land transfer tax again!"

These petitions have been collected by the York Region Real Estate Board. This petition has my support and my signature.

**The Speaker:** I was just thinking while the member was reading the petition, that I believe the sign was part of the petition from your constituents. Therefore, you might want to send it to the table as well.

**Mrs Cunningham:** No, we need the sign.

**The Speaker:** It was not part of the petition. Okay.

**Mrs Marland:** I rise with a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas on February 17, in the Toronto Star, Treasurer Bob Nixon suggested tax changes, including 'increasing the land transfer tax'; and

"Whereas that will be the second time that the Liberal government of Premier David Peterson has increased the land transfer tax, these taxes have risen by 300 per cent since 1985; and

"Whereas property owners will pay over \$560 million in land transfer taxes this year,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government of Premier David Peterson to stop punishing people who contribute to the economy! David Peterson, don't even think of raising the land transfer tax again!"

These petition cards have been collected by the Mississauga Real Estate Board. The petition has my support and my signature.

**Mr Cureatz:** I rise with a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas on February 17, in the Toronto Star, Treasurer Bob Nixon suggested tax changes, including 'increasing the land transfer tax'; and

"Whereas that will be the second time that the Liberal government of Premier David Peterson has increased the land transfer tax, these taxes have risen by 300 per cent since 1985; and

"Whereas property owners will pay over \$560 million in land transfer taxes this year,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government of Premier David Peterson to stop punishing people who contribute to the economy! David Peterson, don't even think of raising the land transfer tax again!"

These petition cards have been collected from people and real estate agents from across Ontario and the petition has my signature on it.

**Mr Jackson:** I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas on February 17, in the Toronto Star, Treasurer Bob Nixon suggested tax changes, including 'increasing the land transfer tax'; and

"Whereas that will be the second time that this Liberal government of Premier David Peterson has increased the land transfer tax, these taxes will have risen by 300 per cent since 1985; and

"Whereas property owners will pay over \$560 million in land transfer taxes this year,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government of Premier David Peterson to stop punishing people who contribute to our economy! David Peterson, don't even think about raising the land transfer tax again!"

These petition cards have been collected by the Oakville, Milton and District Real Estate Board. The petition has my signature and my support.

**Mrs Cunningham:** "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas on February 17, in the Toronto Star, Treasurer Bob Nixon suggested tax changes, including 'increasing the land transfer tax'; and

"Whereas that will be the second time the Liberal government of Premier David Peterson has increased the land transfer tax, these taxes have risen by 300 per cent since 1985; and

"Whereas property owners will pay over \$560 million in land transfer taxes this year;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government of Premier David Peterson to stop punishing people who contribute to the economy! David Peterson, don't even think of raising the land transfer tax again!"

These petition cards have been collected by the Welland District Real Estate Board. The petition has my support and my signature.

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## MOTIONS

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon Mr Conway moved that, notwithstanding standing order 71(h), the requirement for notice be waived with respect to ballot items 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Motion agreed to.

### COMMITTEE SITTING

Hon Mr Conway moved that the select committee on education be authorized to meet following routine proceedings on Wednesday, 24 May 1989.

Motion agreed to.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### AMUSEMENT DEVICES AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

Hon Mr Wrye moved second reading of Bill 205, An Act to amend the Amusement Devices Act.

**Hon Mr Wrye:** I want to present for second reading An Act to amend the Amusement Devices Act. As members are aware, the act was passed some two years ago. Last summer marked the first full season the people of Ontario enjoyed uniform safety protection on amusement rides through this new province-wide regulation.

We are very pleased, and I am pleased to point out to my colleagues, that this was a season which was unmarred by major accidents or casualties. We want to be prepared for the upcoming season with a number of amendments which have proven to be necessary through our first season of operation. They will provide for smoother administration of the law and also for higher standards of public safety.

The fine-tuning of this legislation will help our inspectors to do their job more effectively. For

example, inspectors will have the authority to shut down on the spot any ride found to be operating without a permit indicating it has passed a safety examination. Those investigating accidents will be given the ability to require testing of failed components by technical specialists, and a wider time window will be provided for complex investigations.

In brief, let me just summarize the amendments which will improve efficiency and enforcement in a number of areas. I will just list them: specifying the conditions under which ride operators must pay inspectors' expenses and special fees; enabling the ministry to require third-party tests; authorizing the elevating devices branch to shut down any device operating without a permit; allowing inspectors to issue orders with deadlines attached; permitting the director to grant technical variances; requiring licensees to notify the ministry of incidents and accidents; and giving the ministry a year after an incident has taken place to lay charges.

As well as recognizing the responsibility of the ministry and ride operators, the amendments acknowledge the responsibility of customers by making unsafe behaviour in and around amusement rides an offence under the act. I think these amendments will not place any undue burdens on ride operators, or indeed on those people who are consumers and customers of rides. With the changes in place, the public will be able to be assured that the amusement rides and water slides operating in this province meet some of the toughest safety standards in the world, and that just as the new season is coming forward. That is why I am so pleased we have been able to get these amendments forward today, just as the important season for these rides is about to begin.

**Mr Farnan:** As the critic for the New Democratic Party, the party of consumer protection in Ontario, I say we welcome the bill. We are pleased there is an improved record of safety within this area, and naturally, with the generosity of spirit New Democrats are known for, we are always open to commend the government when we feel it is doing something right. We believe the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr Wrye) in this regard is indeed taking his responsibility seriously and taking the right actions. We commend the minister and we will support the legislation.

**Hon Mr Wrye:** I appreciate the comments of my friend the member for Cambridge. I am pleased to see that the legislation, which is essentially housekeeping but does have some important improvements in safety standards and

administrative procedures, has the support of my colleagues in the Legislature. With that, I will sit down and allow us to move second reading.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

#### ELEVATING DEVICES AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

Hon Mr Wrye moved second reading of Bill 206, An Act to amend the Elevating Devices Act.

**Hon Mr Wrye:** This is really a brief companion piece of legislation. The bill makes a very minor change to bring it into conformity with the Amusement Devices Amendment Act, to which we just gave second reading, and with other legislation including the Occupational Health and Safety Act. It will extend the period of time during which charges may be laid from six months to one year and is consistent with those other pieces of legislation.

With the time which is required to test thoroughly today's high-technology elevating equipment, plus the fact that other agencies are involved or may be involved, this allows a more reasonable framework for a full accident investigation. As a result, because it will improve the administration of justice, I think it does in a sense provide a newer measure of public protection.

**Mr Farnan:** Again on behalf of the New Democratic Party, consumer protection is of the highest priority for New Democrats. When legislation is brought forward that protects consumers, the government can be assured, guaranteed, that it will have the support of the New Democratic Party.

Albeit the minister refers to this particular legislation as housekeeping, we look on it as having additional consumer protection, because of the increased amount of time from six months to 12 months during which a charge may be laid. In that sense, it does allow for the type of investigation into fairly sophisticated technological devices which provides the consumer with protection.

Again, we commend the government on tidying up these areas and at the same time providing increased protection for the consumer.

**Mr Runciman:** Dealing with the Elevating Devices Amendment Act, I do have some concerns with respect to this bill. I am not going to be moving amendments. I may be dealing with an area of concern which does not really fall under the scope of this act—I am not sure—but I would certainly like to take this opportunity to put those concerns on the record.

Essentially, they deal with the question of elevator joyriding and the fact that that issue has been hanging around now since this government came into office, if not before. I certainly recall the very prominent news stories in 1985 and 1986 with respect to a number of deaths in Toronto, with teenagers gaining access to the top of elevators in residential buildings and falling off.

1520

I know this minister's predecessor, the member for Wilson Heights (Mr Kwinter), was talking a couple of years ago about moving rather quickly on this issue to bring in measures that would eliminate this as a real danger in our public housing projects in this province. That is my major concern in reference to public housing.

We had a death just a few weeks ago in Ottawa. The minister may be able to shed some light on this one. Mr Speaker, you may be familiar with the case. Again, it was in a public housing project where a girl was caught somehow—I am not quite certain what happened—between the elevator and the wall of the door opening, with the elevator moving. There was some suspicion at the time that that may have been related to joyriding. I am not sure. I do not believe the inquest has been held at this point.

I think it is incumbent upon the minister, after two and a half to three years at least of dealing with this issue in this House and receiving assurances from at least his predecessor that action was forthcoming, that we hear today exactly what is transpiring with respect to this matter and what plans the minister does have in this regard. I know it is a complex issue: How does one do something that is going to be fail-safe?

There are devices on the market at modest cost. We were made aware of those a couple of years ago during the height of this debate. I am one who does not feel we should be imposing any kind of device or changes on the private sector in residential accommodations at this point, because all of the incidents I am aware of have occurred in public housing projects in Toronto and now the one in Ottawa.

I think the minister's first steps should be to address the concerns in the public housing sector. If, indeed, at some point in the future we find that this is a problem that goes beyond public housing and into private sector residential accommodations in the province, we can address the problem at that time, but right now we have had several deaths over a period of several years. I would be interested in hearing the minister's comments with respect to that very valid concern.

**Hon Mr Wrye:** First, I thank the member for Cambridge (Mr Farnan) for his complimentary remarks on this housekeeping legislation. I appreciate that.

The member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr Runciman) has certainly, and I guess quite validly, as this extends the period of time for laying charges from six months to a year, introduced the issue of joyriding, which in some ways is related to it. I am pleased to put on the record and to report to the member for Leeds-Grenville, and through him to colleagues in the House and to the public, on what has been happening with joyriding.

First, let me deal with the Ottawa incident. The inquest is scheduled for next month. It was not a joyriding incident as far as I am aware. As far as I am concerned, the incidents the member is speaking of usually involve, to some extent, youths who fall while playing on top of elevators or while trying to. In this case, this young person who was tragically killed was getting on an elevator.

There has been a very full investigation of this matter. It was a very complex issue, even in the early days. I have not had a briefing lately, but I can say to the honourable member that there was a very detailed investigation under way, because our early investigation did not indicate very quickly exactly what had happened to cause this accident. We wanted to assure ourselves that we were able to report to the inquest that the investigation had determined a reason, but it was not a joyriding incident.

On the other matter, I hear what the honourable member is saying in terms of the incidence of joyriding being in public housing units. The comments are not totally inaccurate, but they are not completely accurate either. There have been a number of incidents we are aware of which did not take place in Ontario Housing Corp. units. It was a substantial number, though not the largest number.

I can report to the honourable member that Ontario Housing Corp has had a program of retrofit under way, using some of the more modest cost approaches the member has spoken of, and it is well under way now. The honourable member would know, just from the fact that we have not had any recurrence of these tragedies, and indeed I can tell him, that the number of incidents is way down.

We will not be satisfied, of course—I do not think any of us would be satisfied—until that number of incidents has been reduced to nothing, and we continue to work in that regard, but for now the retrofit program is well under way within

Ontario Housing. I would be pleased to report at any point and to speak to my friend privately if he wants more information or certainly to respond in here if he has any further questions.

This amendment will allow us, where we have an investigation and indeed where we have an inquest or we have a very complex accident such as the terrible Scotia Plaza incident of the fall of 1987, to have a longer period of time in which to do our investigations. Sometimes, as Scotia Plaza proved, those investigations can be very complex indeed, involving a lot of testing of these units in order to determine the cause of accidents and sometimes culpability.

So I think this is an important amendment which will allow us to have that longer period of time in which to lay charges where that is deemed appropriate. I hope the Legislature will give it its support.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

#### ENERGY AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

Hon Mr Wrye moved second reading of Bill 207, An Act to amend the Energy Act.

**Hon Mr Wrye:** Essentially, these again are housekeeping changes, although they are important. They will clarify the ministry's ability to grant technical variances and delegate specific inspection responsibilities to the natural gas utilities.

These variances enable us to deal with situations which were not anticipated in the act's safety standards for the use, transportation and handling of hydrocarbon fuels. For example, the propane code that is contained in the Energy Act requires steel posts around a propane tank. However, installers may wish to seek a variance so that they can use steel beams, which are actually much stronger. As a result, the ability to grant variances is not just a practical consideration for the ministry's fuel safety branch; in many cases variances will actually strengthen public safety.

Similarly, the delegation of responsibilities is particularly helpful in unexpected situations where qualified utilities personnel are already on the scene. We already delegate to the natural gas utilities the responsibility to inspect and approve a new system in a house before turning on the gas. These amendments would clarify the authority of the utilities employee—again, to give an example—to make on-the-spot decisions about the proper installation of a vent or a chimney. Because this type of arrangement works so well,

we want to be able to apply it to more situations than we have in the past.

I think, judiciously applied, these measures will promote and improve our high safety standards, and, in any event, as the members will be very clear, any of these variances that are given are variances that can only be given if they will not in any way adversely affect safety standards. We think quite the opposite: There will actually be some cases where in giving these variances we will improve safety standards and improve our ability, and our ability as a community, to meet safety standards in a very timely manner.

**Mr Farnan:** Recently, a resident of Cambridge said to me: "Mike, do the opposition parties automatically oppose government legislation and initiatives as a matter of course?" Sometimes there is a perception out there that opposition simply reacts in a negative manner. Of course, this is an opportunity today, I think, to reinforce the fact that we in the New Democratic Party take our responsibilities very seriously.

We will support legislation that is constructive. Where we see room for an amendment, we will propose such, but in this particular case and in the case of all of the bills the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr Wrye) is presenting before the House today, Bill 205, Bill 206 and Bill 207, we see these as constructive and therefore they gain the support of the New Democratic Party.

#### 1530

We will, of course, where necessary and where we feel justice demands it, take a very strong and principled stand in opposition to legislation. But as the minister pointed out in his comments, in Bill 207 we are talking about the ability to grant variances that would improve safety factors. New Democrats are not going to take a position in opposition to something that is obviously common sense, nor will they take a position against something that is obviously in the best interests of consumers.

Once again, I say to the minister and to the government, when they bring forward legislation that makes sense and is worthy of support, they can count upon the support of the New Democratic Party. We commend the minister for his initiatives in these regards.

**Mr Runciman:** I guess we are not going to oppose this legislation. I would be interested in hearing a little bit more of the rationale behind the changes the minister is proposing. He has discussed it, but not in detail.

With respect to the safety elements, he assures us we do not have any need to be concerned with these proposed changes; but I guess when one is dealing with this area in terms of the transmission of energy, propane appliances and so on, one always has to be somewhat cautious with respect to approvals being granted.

No matter whether it is the installation of a specific post versus some other form of protection, I think the public and the members of this Legislature merit perhaps some more elaboration from the minister of the reasoning behind this proposal. I assume there are some cost savings involved for the government with respect to this.

The minister is shaking his head; there are not. He is indicating then it is simply a move that is going to benefit consumers in the long haul, over expediting approvals that are not going to pose hazards to the people of this province. I am simply looking for reassurance with respect to that concern. I think that is the one area some of us on this side of the House would wish to have further details on.

**Hon Mr Wrye:** I thank my friend the member for Cambridge (Mr Farnan) again for his support. I think today we are setting a very, very positive standard for the way I hope this Legislature will move forward this spring, in a very collegial fashion with the New Democratic Party supporting all of the very positive efforts of this government.

I can assure my friend from Cambridge that we have attempted, through these very positive bills, to set a tone for him and his colleagues. We know he will report back to his colleagues, who because of their other duties are not able to be here at this moment, what a positive tone we are setting with very positive government legislation and that we can carry this element of collegiality through the rest of the spring. I do appreciate his support of this legislation.

I certainly understand what my friend the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr Runciman) is saying in terms of the safety standard issue. If the member will look at the amendment to section 28 of the act, the new subsection 28(4), he will see it allows variances where, "in the director's opinion, the variance would not detrimentally affect the safety of the appliance, pipeline or work." It is quite specific. There are a number of matters—I gave one example of what can occur—where we will actually be upgrading, in the director's opinion in that case in terms of the steel beam, and we would be not detrimentally affecting the safety of the appliance, pipeline or work.

As well, there are occasions where there will be technological changes which, until the code can be changed—and the member will note again the code adopted under the regulations—literally, at the present time, tie the director's hands and the branch's hands.

Because these various bodies that approve code changes meet only every six or nine months, and sometimes only once a year, we could have a major technological change which everyone knows will improve safety and which indeed is receiving approval from a number of code committees that do not allow variances until those standards can be formally changed.

Again, there is an element of that, and I acknowledge it, but I share the concern, as we all do, of the honourable member to ensure that safety is being enhanced and not diminished. I have reviewed this matter very carefully with my officials and I am convinced that this is an issue which actually will enhance safety, allow for better delivery for business and consumers alike of these important matters and do so without any danger.

In terms of the other aspect of the changes—for example, safety inspectors of a gas company can be on the site, do an inspection and take action, in effect, not to turn on gasoline which has been installed in an unsafe way—I would not want to say in a huge number of ways, but in some ways, the changes that are being proposed actually augment the kind of government forces that we have now.

I hope my friend will agree with me that what we have here is actually an enhancement of safety and, certainly in my judgement and the judgement of the government, no threat to the public safety of the province; rather, exactly the opposite. I hope the Legislature will again give its enthusiastic support to this amendment contained in Bill 207.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

Mr McClelland, on behalf of Hon Mr Bradley, moved second reading of Bill 218, An Act to amend the Environmental Protection Act.

**Mr McClelland:** The purpose of this bill is to enable Ontario to control, reduce and in fact eliminate, hopefully throughout the course of time, ozone-depleting substances within our boundaries.

It will be well known to most members here and indeed a number of people in our province that ozone-depleting substances include families of chemicals called chlorofluorocarbons, commonly known as CFCs, as well as Halons and individual chemicals such as methylchloroform.

CFCs are used as coolants in refrigerants, air conditioners and chilling equipment, as blowing agents in foam product manufacturing, as cleaning solvents for electrical circuit boards and as propellants in aerosol sprays and hospital sterilization procedures. Halons are similar to CFCs but also contain bromine. They are used in fire extinguishers.

Once vented from the products and processes in which they are used, CFCs and Halons rise in the atmosphere and react with and destroy stratospheric ozone. A single chlorine atom released when CFCs break up can destroy thousands of ozone molecules in the stratosphere during the 70 to 100 years it remains active.

Worldwide consensus has emerged that chlorine, bromine, fluorine and certain synthetic chemicals are decreasing ozone concentrations in the stratosphere. Although the chemistry of these changes in the earth's ozone layer is not fully understood, there is certainly sufficient scientific evidence indicating that it is critical to control ozone-depleting substances.

#### 1540

Scientists warn us increases in ultraviolet radiation result in more skin cancer and cataracts, reduced crop yields and damage to aquatic life. A three per cent reduction in stratospheric ozone protection is estimated to produce 2,000 additional Canadian skin cancer victims each year.

In September 1987, an international treaty to reduce ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons and Halons was signed in Montreal—it was known as the Montreal Protocol—to control substances which deplete the earth's ozone layer. This treaty called for a cap on production of CFCs at 1986 levels by July 1989 and a cap on production of Halons at 1986 levels by February 1992. CFC production is then to be reduced to 80 per cent of 1986 levels by July 1993 and to 50 per cent in 1998.

The treaty was ratified by Canada and other countries which consume two thirds of the world's CFCs and Halons. In Ontario, we consume about 1.25 per cent of the world's CFCs. Ontario will phase out the use of these substances as quickly as practical. We will do this by adopting regulations under the bill, which will require that CFCs and other ozone-depleting substances be recaptured and recycled when

devices containing them are being maintained or taken out of service.

We also have regulations banning categories of uses of ozone-depleting substances as substitutes become available and regulations that will require ozone-depleting substances be destroyed when taken out of service, once a safe method of destruction has been perfected.

The bill takes the first concrete step by banning, as of 1 July 1989, the manufacture, sale or use of ozone-depleting substances as an aerosol propellant, except those used for prescription drugs.

We will also ban, as of 1 July 1989, the manufacture, sale or use of packaging, wrapping or containers made with ozone-depleting substances. The act will enable Ontario to phase out other major uses of these substances as soon as possible.

Ministry of the Environment officials are meeting with environmentalists and industrial representatives now to plan the prompt and orderly removal of major categories of uses from the Ontario marketplace and manufacturing base.

The world is awakening to the fact that stratospheric ozone damage is even more serious than was originally thought at the Montreal meeting. Already many concerned and knowledgeable people are calling for further CFC production cuts beyond those specified in the new treaty.

Certainly, it is our intent to reduce and eliminate CFC use in Ontario as quickly as possible. Accordingly, it is a pleasure for me to move second reading of Bill 218, and I look forward to the comments and helpful exchange in the House from my colleagues opposite.

**Mrs Grier:** I am glad to have the opportunity to participate in this debate and that we have before us today legislation to limit the use of CFCs in our environment. Of course, our party will be supporting that legislation.

It was almost a year ago now that I raised in this House with the Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley) the question of what he was going to do about the threat to our environment posed by CFCs. At that time, I got a long involved answer that talked about federal-provincial initiatives, consultation and meetings, but did not end up with any specific commitments to action. So I am very pleased, even though it is a year later, we now are going to have some action. I congratulate the minister on getting that far at this point.

I think the awareness that all of us have of the dangers to our environment posed by CFCs has certainly grown more quickly than any other consciousness-raising process I can think of. It was in 1987 that the Montreal Protocol was signed. Since then, I think we have realized that the targets that were established in 1987 were far too low and the danger that is posed by CFCs is greater than any of us had thought.

Just this morning, I heard about a conference in New Zealand that was pointing out, yet again, the danger to the plankton, that provides the beginning of the food chain nourishment for sea animals, which is posed by the reduction of the ozone layer and has the potential to affect all of us, if nothing is done about this issue.

As I pointed out in the House in 1988, industry has recognized the problem. Industry has moved, in a number of areas, to make changes and to reduce its use of CFCs. In fact, many experts feel that the controlled technologies are there to reduce CFCs and Halon emissions by some 90 per cent.

But we need to have stricter standards: We need to have stricter standards in the recycling of those CFCs that already exist in plants, in air conditioners, in machinery. We need to have stricter standards regarding the venting of those into the atmosphere, either when they have come to the end of their useful life or when there are repairs being done.

I regret that in this bill the time frame within which any of those actions are going to be taken is much longer than I would wish it to be.

The Montreal Protocol was designed to stop a two per cent decline in global ozone, but in our latitudes, the year-round decline has been three per cent between 1969 and 1986, so it is obvious that we have to move more quickly than we might have thought we were going to have to, because as the ozone diminishes we get more ultraviolet radiation and we get more skin cancers and more cataracts and we get a depression of the human immune system. There are reduced crop yields, depleted marine fisheries, materials damage and increased smog.

The overwhelming conclusion of the United States Environmental Protection Agency studies is that the benefits of limiting future CFC-Halon use far outweigh the increased costs these regulations would impose on the economy.

This is a problem that is almost exclusively a problem for the northern hemisphere. Our hemisphere consumes 84 per cent of the world's CFCs. It is not a problem we can blame on anybody else. It is not a problem we can wait for

anybody else to tackle. It is something we have to tackle and we have to tackle quickly.

It is interesting to look at what is happening in Sweden, because there the development of alternative products and processes is seen as an economic opportunity. That is what we fail to do in this country. We have not seen: "What can we do in order to take advantage of the world's need to limit CFCs? What can we do to speed up the development of new technologies, to find alternatives, to phase out far more quickly than this legislation contemplates the ways in which we use CFCs?"

In Sweden, they have set themselves targets. Their consumption is to be halved by 1991 and virtually eliminated by 1995. They phased out sterilization uses and aerosols by the end of 1988. Their use of CFCs as a solvent or a blowing agent for flexible foams and for rigid foams in dry cleaning and coolant uses is to cease by the end of 1994, and their government is proactively participating in the economy to bring this about, with incentives, with supports for research and recycling and recovery and with the development of alternative products.

Here we have seen some action taken even at the municipal level that goes beyond what this minister contemplates. We saw the city of Toronto moving to bring in a bylaw that would limit the use of CFCs, and I suspect the cynics would say it was that action at the municipal level that might even have prompted the calling of this legislation and getting on with doing something about it in this jurisdiction.

When we look at the actual legislation, we see it is a far cry from banning CFCs and from even reducing them as fast as needs to happen. It is interesting to look at a submission that was made to Management Board of Cabinet by the air resources branch in December 1987, which pointed out the problems with CFCs and recommended that Ontario should take steps to reduce CFC emissions in order to protect the ozone layer, pointed out that CFCs can persist for about 100 years and suggested that the government get on with it.

That was December 1987, and here we are in May 1989 looking at a piece of legislation which is a strange amalgam of legislation and things that are normally in the regulations. We have two specifics in the legislation, that the use of CFCs as a propellant will be ended as of 1 July 1989 and that the use of CFCs in packaging will be ended by 1 July 1989. Then the bill goes on to say that the minister may make regulations relating to further depletion from the uses of CFCs. In the

fact sheet that was distributed with the bill, the minister laid out that timetable.

1550

By December, we will establish an infrastructure to collect and recycle CFCs; by July 1990, we will ban rigid foam insulation; December 1991, ban the use of CFCs as a solvent; December 1992, require that Halons no longer be vented to the atmosphere during fire-extinguisher tests; by 1 July 1994, end CFC recycling and require that these substances be captured and destroyed at a destruction facility to be established by this date, and 1 July 1998"—almost 10 years since the air resources branch recommended they be phased out—"ban their use in refrigerators, air conditioners and coolers.

I know the minister or his parliamentary assistant is going to say: "The technology isn't there. We've got to wait that long." In fact, what this legislation does is recognize the existing technology. It does not do anything to spur on the development of new technology. It is reminiscent of the other actions by this minister that also have very long time frames. We have the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement program. What happened to MISA? It certainly is not in place at this point. It certainly is not on target. We have the clean air program. What has become of air-monitoring regulation 308? What has become of the time frame and the target that was proudly announced when that review was introduced?

My point is, what guarantee do we have that the targets and timetables set out in the fact sheet distributed with the legislation—which are presumably going to be put in a regulation, though we have not seen the draft regulation—are in fact going to be met?

I hope they are going to be met. It is certainly going to be my task, as long as I am in this place, to remind the minister of the targets he said were going to be in the regulations. It is certainly my hope that we see this regulation very quickly. Of course, I have no choice but to support the legislation, but I just want to make the point that it is a rather small step in the face of a very large and growing problem.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Any questions and comments on the member's statement?

Mr Fleet Thank you, Mr Speaker. It took a long time to get to this stage here. Actually, I sometimes worry a little bit about the cynicism that may develop in this place, because we have just heard from the honourable member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mrs Grier) about her concerns about the commitment. I just want to

assure her and all who are either reading Hansard as a result of this speech or watching through the facility of television that we are committed.

I am very pleased this bill has come forward. It is not, as has been suggested, a small step. In fact, it is a rather dramatic advance in the area of CFCs.

I had an opportunity shortly before the announcement to speak to the minister about the serious concerns I have about CFCs. I was pleased that he and the whole ministry had been aiming at advancing the schedule for when CFCs would be attacked, if I can use that word. As a society and through all the industries and through all the users in society, we are making a very clear statement to say that we want to eliminate CFCs. We want to move as fast as is feasible to do that and the commitment we have for that kind of advance is really what our government is about.

I appreciate that the critic of the official opposition will always encourage us to do more, regardless of how much we have done, but quite frankly I think there are very significant advances in this bill. It goes way beyond the international convention at Montreal. It is far beyond any other jurisdiction I am aware of in North America. It has really led the federal government. It is something we should all be proud of.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Any other questions or comments from other members? If not, would the member wish to respond?

**Mrs Grier:** Merely to say that it is that phrase, "We are moving as fast as is feasible," that strikes a chill into my bones.

**Mrs Marland:** In rising to take part in this debate on Bill 218 today, I obviously want to indicate at the outset that the Progressive Conservative caucus will be supporting this bill, although we too are disappointed this bill does not go further, sooner.

The truth of the matter is that the use of chlorofluorocarbons as propellants in aerosol cans is in fact only eight per cent of the problem. This bill bans the use of CFCs in aerosol cans as the propellant agent as of 1 July 1989. If you look at the fact that it is dealing with eight per cent of the problem, of course that begs the question of what is happening with the remainder of the problem, namely, the 92 per cent.

Before I address the 92 per cent problem, I just want to be very clear about why I am going to be placing two amendments to this bill this afternoon. The first amendment I am going to be presenting is one that would require mandatory labelling of all aerosol cans. We are in a rather

ironic situation where this bill bans CFCs as propellants, but the public does not know what aerosol cans contain CFCs today.

When the minister had his press conference on this bill, it was really a big deal, of course, because this was going to be the white knight saviour who was going to save the depletion of the ozone layer, because the government was going to ban all the aerosol cans and bottles and so forth. However, when I asked the minister if he had a list of those products that contain CFCs, he had to admit that no, his ministry did not have a list of those products.

What is significant about not knowing what products contain CFCs is the fact that there are very conscientious companies in the industry that have already eliminated them from their products, not the least of which would be a very well known company with a lot of very well known products: Boyle-Midway Canada. In fact, while oven sprays and those kinds of products were listed as examples of products that violated the ozone layer because they contained CFCs, Boyle-Midway has for over a year been manufacturing its spray without the content of CFCs, in terms of its oven spray and some of its insecticide sprays for human use.

I hope that while this ban becomes law there will be some credit and some recognition given to the forward planning and the research and development that existing companies in Ontario have already done to protect the ozone layer, because I do not think everyone should be damned with all the battleships in terms of this subject. When a company like Boyle-Midway does its research and development and changes its product without being legislated to do that, that is a significant step that indicates good corporate citizens, and they too share the concerns we do for the environment and the risk to the environment that chlorofluorocarbons have caused.

**1600**

While we understand that 1 July 1989 is indeed the date the ban on the sale, use or manufacturing of ozone-depleting substances as aerosol propellants, except for use in prescription drugs, will take place—they are talking about regulations that will be put in place to address the utilization of existing stocks and to allow appropriate disposal—we certainly hope that will be fair to those industries that have not been forewarned prior to this date. It seems to me the press conference was three months ago, so industries in fact had only three months' notice in a formal sense.

If we can have compulsory labelling, it gives the consumer a choice whether he buys the product with CFCs in it or not. Since CFCs as propellants for aerosol use are going to be permitted to stay in prescription drugs, if they are labelled, then the persons who are using that product can make a choice. Even though it is a prescription drug, it means they share in the responsibility about whether that product is used or not.

I also noticed that this bill, as of 1 July 1989, will ban the manufacture, sale or use of packaging, wrapping and containers made with the ozone-depleting substances of CFCs. It also will include items such as household sprays using CFCs as propellants and foam products blown with CFCs. What I want to ask the ministry is, if it is going to ban the manufacture, sale and use of packaging, wrapping and containers, how does it plan to address the very serious question of all those containers, wrapping and packages that come from off this North American continent, particularly from outside Canada?

As we are aware, Canada has a tremendous import market. We do a tremendous importing trade with the Pacific Rim countries and the European countries, where all products that can be very fragile, such as televisions, radios, camera equipment, microscopes and other kinds of electronic devices that have very delicate components are shipped to Canada, and indeed to Ontario, in some type of foam packaging and wrapping.

It will be interesting to see how the ministry will address those items being imported into Ontario, because those items also have to be disposed of as garbage in some way or other. I hope that will be a question the minister will be able to address, but I suppose it will not be addressed until we have some kind of commitment, through direction of the ministry to the industry, that industry indeed develop alternatives to these products through its research.

I also think it is significant to mention that the minister has not blocked two new factories that produce CFCs. This does not make sense, in light of the fact that Ontario's aim to eliminate the chemical by 1998 is stated in this bill. It does not make sense to allow two new factories to be built for a nine-year period of operation. In September 1988 the ministry issued a certificate of approval for Techni-Therm Inc to operate a plant in Cornwall that makes rigid foam insulation using chlorofluorocarbons. The ministry has also allowed Fiberglas Canada Inc to start production of a similar product.

This shows the minister is running his ministry on an ad hoc basis with no forward planning. He gets an idea, thinks it is great, announces it, and then decides how to implement it. He did the same thing with his 50 per cent recycling announcement. He cannot provide us with the list of products that presently use CFCs as propellants, so as I said a few minutes ago, how does the consumer know which product not to buy after 1 July 1989 without compulsory labelling?

In a way, this eight per cent solution to the 100 per cent problem in fact ends up banning a ghost. Until the Ministry of the Environment and in particular the minister show some leadership and sincere commitment to the problem of the 92 per cent balance of products that use CFCs, we are really crawling towards a solution to this problem.

I think the industries that use CFCs as coolants in refrigeration and air-conditioning systems have to be the pioneers to spend money, to invest money in research and development to find the alternative product that can be used to replace CFCs in cooling and refrigeration. Quite simply, without direction from the ministry, those industries will not commit money for research and development, so it is going to be up to the ministry to show that kind of leadership.

Because of that, I will be moving a second amendment this afternoon that will require certain industries to devote a certain percentage of their budget to undertake research and development to develop substitutes for ozone-depleting substances. It is a responsibility we all share. If industries spend money on research and development, they will not lose that money. That money will be added on to the cost of the product, the cost of the air-conditioning unit, the cost of the system that is in our cars or buildings, in our domestic and commercial refrigeration.

Quite frankly, I can stand here today and tell members with complete assurance that the public in Ontario is willing to pay more for any product that is an alternative to what we have been doing with our present products in depleting the ozone layer. When we look at the risk to our health of losing protection from ultraviolet rays, when we have the thinning of the ozone and the holes that are now appearing through it and therefore the increase in skin cancer and other diseases that has already been referred to earlier this afternoon, it is obvious all of us are willing to share in the investment in the alternative, by paying more for the end product because the industries have been asked to spend money on research and development for alternatives.

We certainly look forward to support for the Progressive Conservative amendment that would make that a requirement of industry, because obviously it has to be an alternative to the 92 per cent problem that still remains after we pass this bill today dealing with the aerosol propellant in cans.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr M. C. Ray):** Are there any comments or questions?

**Mr Fleet:** I am pleased to hear the Progressive Conservative Party is going to be supporting this bill, but I was a little bit surprised to hear the nature of some of the criticisms. The problem inherent in the kinds of criticisms that were made is really that the suggestion for better information is rather interesting but completely overtaken by what this bill does. The whole purpose of the bill is to phase out things as quickly as possible.

1610

One of the difficulties that exists with CFCs, and with Halons in particular, is that there are certain products currently being used for which there is no substitute for the CFCs. I thought the third party would rather have addressed itself to that reality, and that is one of the difficulties that exists for industries and for consumers.

I quite agree that consumers are willing to pay more for more environmentally appropriate products, not just in this area but in others, and in fact I proposed an environmental protection tax in this Legislature. I do not know if tomorrow we will hear of something like that from the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon), but it is certainly a policy basis I hope other members from all parties would adopt.

It seems to me that the reality of dealing with CFCs is that we must persuade people to change their behaviour. It is not just a question of the companies and how they cope with it, although I am again pleased to reinforce that those companies which have been progressive are to be acknowledged, and there are other companies.

In terms of the labelling suggestion, I know that in the corner drugstore near where my community office is—Pro Re Nata Pharmacy—they have Styrofoam cups and people come and ask whether CFCs are in the cups. That store owner has decided not to have CFCs in the products she is handing out. I think that is the kind of advancement of education and activity we want to encourage.

**Mrs Marland:** Simply in response to the member for High Park-Swansea, he obviously was not listening to what I said.

**Mr Fleet:** I listened very carefully.

**Mrs Marland:** That is sometimes a problem for the people who talk while we are speaking. Then they jump up on their feet and make a statement, and they have not actually heard what has been said. Obviously, I would not be asking for research and development by the industry if there existed a substitute for the product. When we are looking at at least another 10 or 15 years down the road, that is far too long to look at the kind of damage and depletion that can be done while we have an existing situation as we do today.

What I am saying is that we must encourage industry to act as quickly as possible, but without that encouragement—and it may even end up being in some different form of incentive by some level of government. Certainly the federal government too must be given credit for the leadership it has shown on this whole subject of CFCs from a national viewpoint.

**Mr Fleet:** They followed right along after us.

**Mrs Marland:** For the benefit of the member, who is still yapping away with his interjections, he should know that it was the federal government which initiated the Montreal agreement back in 1987. It has been a little bit of a “me too” situation, but nevertheless we are happy it is here. We are just saying to the minister: “Don’t stop here. We need to go further to make sure we have a real commitment to stop the damage that is being done, so that our children and grandchildren will be safe living in the North American continent and the rest of the world.”

**Mr McClelland:** As my friend the member for High Park-Swansea said, I as well want to thank the members opposite, the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore and the member for Mississauga South (Mrs Marland), for their participation and contribution to the debate. Notwithstanding some of their comments which I may take issue with, I will not do so at the present time, because I think in the spirit of this very worthwhile and progressive legislation they have seen fit to support it and we thank them for that.

I want to draw particular attention to members of this House and the people of this province that, in the absence of any leadership in terms of legislation at the federal level, Ontario will in fact be the first province in Canada to act with legislation to protect the environment by phasing out the use of ozone-depleting substances.

At present, my friends opposite, and indeed everyone in this House, would know that there is no provision in Ontario law allowing the government of Ontario to control the chemicals

which are doing damage, the chlorofluorocarbons, the Halons and other ozone-depleting substances. This legislation, the ozone layer protection bill, or more properly entitled the Environmental Protection Amendment Act, will fill this legislative void and enable Ontario to control ozone-depleting substances.

The member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore made some very thoughtful comments with respect to the international scope of this problem. We hope, as a government, to complement the international efforts to protect the ozone layer. We are going to move to phase out the use of these substances as quickly as we practically can.

I understand the criticism of my friends opposite and how they would like to see things move along at a much more rapid pace. We also will be looking at every possible opportunity and avenue we have to accelerate the targets we have. We take this very seriously, and as we work in consultation with industry, producers and manufacturers, we believe that, together, the problem can be solved.

In terms of the international scene, I want to tell my friend opposite that we will be continuing discussions with importing industries to encourage them to talk to their suppliers of the need to stop exporting to Ontario products used in CFCs and foam packaging with CFC-blown materials. We have been meeting with industrialists, environmentalists and industrial representatives to plan the prompt, orderly removal of major categories of uses from the Ontario marketplace and manufacturing base.

I want to say to my friend the member for Mississauga South that there are many companies—and she is indeed correct. I had the privilege of being in Brantford not too long ago, and I am not going to get into mentioning the list of the many environmentally conscious and responsible corporations, for fear of leaving some of them out. I believe they all are due the recognition that she has drawn to at least one corporation that has acted responsibly.

I want to say also to my friend from Mississauga South that I will be commenting about her proposed amendments at a later time in this afternoon’s proceedings. I want to thank her for her helpful and thoughtful suggestions to this act.

I want to say also—my friend the member for Mississauga South and also, I believe, the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore raised this point—that our government will be commissioning and funding research to develop a safe, efficient CFC-destruction method. It will then

require the capture and destruction of ozone-depleting substances as they are taken out of service.

Until facilities are available, we will promote the capture and recycling of used CFCs in the electronics industry and from refrigeration equipment as its taken out of service. We recognize that an ideal world would be able to deal with it and ban them altogether. We have to have some efficient, safe method of destroying it that will not just create another environmental problem. Accordingly, we will be funding research to that end.

We will also fund studies on how other current applications of ozone-depleting substances can be reduced and, ultimately, eliminated altogether. Imprudent human activity has had a destructive impact on our environment in many respects in the natural ecology system that we enjoy, including the atmosphere. One part of our life-supporting environment, the stratospheric ozone layer, shields us from overexposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun, and we have discussed that with my friends opposite, the critics, this afternoon. This bill enables Ontario to act to protect the ozone layer.

Having regard to the importance of this legislation and the significance of Ontario's becoming the first jurisdiction in Canada to move with some concrete legislation to deal with this problem, to set out an action plan and—I would say with respect, if I can disagree with my friend the member for Mississauga South—to set out a very well thought out, carefully planned, prudent approach to deal with this problem in a holistic way, not to respond just emotively but to respond in a systematic, holistic way, I am delighted that my friends opposite will be supporting this legislation. I thank them for their comments this afternoon.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

1620

House in committee of the whole.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

Consideration of Bill 218, An Act to amend the Environmental Protection Act.

**Mr McClelland:** I request permission of the House to sit in the front row and have staff join me.

Agreed to.

**The Deputy Chairman:** With regard to Bill 218, are there any comments, questions or amendments that members wish to propose?

**Mrs Marland:** Yes; I have an amendment to part V-A.

**The Deputy Chairman:** First, before the member reads her amendment, would she indicate how many amendments she has and to which sections?

**Mrs Marland:** I have one amendment to section 1. My second amendment is not to section 1.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Section 1, part V-A, the first amendment. And then, the second amendment?

**Mrs Marland:** The second amendment is to section 2 of the bill, to add subsection 2(4d). It is section 136 of the act.

Section 1:

**The Deputy Chairman:** Mrs Marland moves that the bill be amended by adding thereto the following section:

“Labelling

“47m. After the 1st day of July, 1989,

“(a) anything that formerly contained an ozone-depleting substance that acted as a propellant;

“(b) any designated thing or anything of a designated class that formerly contained an ozone-depleting substance;

“(c) any packaging, wrapping or container that was formerly made in a manner that used an ozone-depleting substance;

“(d) any designated thing or anything of a designated class if that thing was formerly made in a manner that used an ozone-depleting substance;

“shall be labelled in a manner prescribed by regulation to indicate there are no ozone-depleting substances used to make, use, transfer, display, transport, store or dispose of the thing, designated thing, packaging, wrapping or container.”

**Mrs Marland:** I will not take very much more time on explaining this amendment, because I did address it earlier in my comments. I do see it, however, as a very important amendment, because it obviously makes sense that if we are going to be banning something, we know what it is and, where it is not being banned, we have it identified.

At this point in time, today in Ontario, we do not have any idea at all how many products there are that contain chlorofluorocarbons as a propel-

lant for the aerosol medium. It is common sense that if we are going to ban something, we had better know what it is and where it exists. To make it compulsory for all labelling means that the ban itself will in fact be real.

To suggest that it can be done in regulations, of course, begs the question about why it was not done in regulations before. Obviously, if it was a requirement before with food, which it was—all food aerosol cans had to have CFCs identified, but not any other product—therefore, I see a very real need for the labelling to be compulsory.

**Mr McClelland:** I think I understand the rationale behind the amendment of my friend the member for Mississauga South. Let me simply say that the whole purpose and intent of the act is to eliminate the use of those substances in any event. It seems very clear that you do not label after the fact if these products do not contain a substance which has been banned from use. That is the intention of the act and that will be the effect of the regulations that are passed under the act, to eliminate it, so in effect, with respect to the intent, it is a redundant amendment. The act already contains that.

I think it is also important to note that many industries, as my friend has already pointed out, seek to do that in terms of their own marketing and the sale of their products. I think that ought to be left in their hands to determine how they want to appeal to the marketplace. I do not think it is for us to tell them how to appeal to the marketplace in that sense.

They clearly will be in a position where it will be illegal to market, to produce and make available for sale in this province products containing the substances, so we see it as redundant to require labelling saying that the products do not contain them when in fact that is what the legislation does. With respect, we will not be supporting that amendment.

**Mrs Grier:** I have some sympathy with the comments that have been made by the parliamentary secretary, because I think it is clumsy to try to label something to say that a product has been eliminated, and I think it is something that perhaps more properly ought to be addressed in the regulations, but I would say that the fact that the bill is drafted in the way it is with things that ought normally to be in regulations—ie, the deadlines by which products are going to be phased out—has opened up the minister to these kinds of amendments.

If he was going to do everything by regulation, he should have done everything by regulation. If he was going to put some elements that are

normally in regulations in a bill, then it is perfectly acceptable to add other things that are normally in regulations. For that reason, and for one other, I am going to support the amendment.

1630

The other one is that I think labelling is very important and that it is useful to establish the principle that we begin to label things so that consumers can make informed choices. I would be much happier if this amendment said everything containing CFCs and Halons were labelled, so those of us who do not wish to buy products containing ozone-depleting substances could try to find our own substitutes, even if the manufacturers have not produced them. I think it is of some merit to have a section known as “labelling” in the legislation. Presumably, it can be further dealt with by regulation, if ever we see the regulation.

I will support the amendment, with some qualifications as I do so.

**Mr McClelland:** Not to join in any significant debate on this matter, I just want to advise my friends that the industry and its association have agreed in any event to label their products. I think that speaks well for the goodwill of industry, which my friend the member for Mississauga South referred to earlier, and it will be accomplished. Having regard to the fact they will be outlawed anyway, they are going to try and impress that point in terms of their own strategy.

**The Deputy Chairman:** All those in favour of Mrs Marland's motion will please say “aye.”

All those opposed will please say “nay.”

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Section 1 agreed to.

Section 2:

**Mrs Marland:** I move that section 2 of the bill be amended by adding the following clause to subsection 136(4a) of the act:

Mr Chairman, this is not as you have it written. This has just been handed to me with the correct wording as to the requirement, I guess, of the legislative counsel.

**The Deputy Chairman:** If you would read on, I think I have it here.

**Mrs Marland:** It is practically the same wording.

“(d) prescribing that designated industries devote a designated percentage of their budget to undertake research and development to develop substitutes for ozone-depleting substances.”

**The Deputy Chairman:** I think, just for clarity's sake, that I will read it.

Mrs Marland moves that section 2 of the bill be amended by adding the following clause to subsection 136(4a) of the act:

"(d) prescribing that designated industries devote a designated percentage of their budget to undertake research and development to develop substitutes for ozone-depleting substances."

**Mrs Marland:** I addressed this too, earlier in my comments. This is just to reinforce the fact that unless we find a solution to the major use of CFCs, which is air-cooling and refrigeration—those are very major, both in domestic and industrial and commercial use—and unless there is an incentive to research and develop substitutes for CFCs in that application, this bill will indeed not take us further ahead, other than, as I have mentioned earlier, the eight per cent solution.

It is my understanding that although my original amendment defined the ozone-depleting substances very specifically—I was in fact defining them as those "used in air-conditioning and refrigeration units"—I am advised that if I remove the description of where those substances are used specifically, the ministry will support my motion. For that reason, I am no longer being specific about the ozone-depleting substances application, and therefore we are just asking for research and development to develop a substitute for ozone-depleting substances, period.

**Mr McClelland:** I want to thank the member for Mississauga South for the very helpful suggestion. We appreciate the input from time to time, notwithstanding the fact that as is the nature of this business, we do not always agree to agree. In this case we do, and I want to thank her for her contribution in this regard.

I might add, inasmuch as my friend the member for Mississauga South made some comments, that I want to explain why we asked for the change from her original, since it is on the record.

Simply said, it is our opinion and the opinion of our counsel that it gives us more latitude. It does not become restrictive, as it was as originally drafted. We thank the member for her indulgence in accommodating us in that regard and thank her again for her positive input in this regard. We look forward to that continued spirit of co-operation as we move ahead with this very important legislation.

**Mrs Grier:** Far be it from me to spoil this atmosphere of constructive harmony. I will be glad to support an amendment that indicates this

government is going to prescribe that certain industries devote a certain percentage of their budgets to a certain undertaking. I think that is indeed an important commitment to have been made by this government, one that I am sure it will be reminded of on other occasions. But at the risk of being called cynical, perhaps I should say that I suspect it will be a frosty Friday before we see such a regulation.

Motion agreed to.

Section 2, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 3 and 4 agreed to.

Bill 218, as amended, ordered to be reported.

## 1640

### SMOKING IN THE WORKPLACE ACT, 1989

Consideration of Bill 194, An Act to restrict Smoking in Workplaces.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** May I have permission to move down to the front of the House and have officials join me for consideration?

**The Deputy Chairman:** Yes, the minister and his staff to the front, please.

Are there any members who wish to offer comments, amendments or discussion? If so, to which sections of Bill 194?

**Mr Sterling:** I believe I have submitted to you a number of amendments. I know my colleague the member for Hamilton West (Mr Allen) also has a number of amendments. I do not know whether he has given them to you.

**The Deputy Chairman:** I have copies, but could you just recite the section numbers in the order in which you wish to see amendments.

**Mr Sterling:** I have three amendments to section 1. The member for Hamilton West has an amendment to section 2. Each of us has amendments for sections 3 and 5. In fact, the member for Hamilton West has put forward four amendments to section 5. I have put forward one amendment. I have one amendment for section 6, one for section 10 and one for section 13.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Are there any other members who have amendments to put forward?

**Mr Allen:** I will send these down to the Clerk's table. I have amendments to sections 2 and 3 and four amendments to section 5, which are the critical amendments that I think are essential to this bill, and I will send them down to you now.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** I wonder whether the member for Hamilton West is going to provide us with copies of his amendments. We now have

received the copies from the member for Carleton.

Section 1:

**Mr Sterling:** I just want to indicate that the very first amendment, as I originally gave it to you, Mr Chairman, was incorrectly drawn and I have replaced that particular amendment with another one. That is because of the change to the bill during the committee and it was an error on my part. I believe I have given that changed amendment to the member for Hamilton West and to the Minister of Labour.

**Mr Sterling:** I move that section 1 be amended as follows: that “‘employer’ means a person who employs one or more employees or who contracts for the services of one or more persons” be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

“‘employer’ means any person or persons who has control and responsibility for the workplace.”

**The Deputy Chairman:** Mr Sterling moves that section 1 be amended as follows: that “‘employer’ means a person who employs one or more employees—dispense? Agreed.

**Mr Sterling:** Mr Chairman, were you following along the amendment? Although they dispensed with it, which is a normal procedure, I just wanted to make certain because there was a bit of confusion.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Let me then read it.

**Mr Sterling:** I think it would be wise.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Mr Sterling moves that section 1 be amended as follows: that “‘employer’ means a person who employs one or more employees or who contracts for the services of one or more persons” be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

“‘employer’ means any person or persons who has control and responsibility for the workplace.”

**Mr Sterling:** In April, the standing committee on social development considered Bill 194, An Act to restrict Smoking in Workplaces. Perhaps I could make some general comments at the beginning, so that people who might be interested in this debate would have some idea of the framework in which these particular amendments are put forward.

Bill 194 was introduced in this Legislature in November 1988 and received second reading in the Legislature, 2 March 1989. In addition to Bill 194, there have been other pieces of legislation put forward by various members of this Legisla-

ture dealing with controlling smoking in the workplace and public places, and with the sale of cigarettes or tobacco to minors. Legislation dealing with advertising of tobacco products has also been put forward in previous legislatures.

At the present time, we really have two pieces of legislation in front of the Legislature: Bill 194, the one we are debating this afternoon and for which I have put forward the first amendment, and Bill 157, a bill which I have sponsored and which would allow different municipalities across this province to make bylaws with regard to controlling smoking in the workplace and in public places.

I think it is important to note that there is a distinction with regard to making the two kinds of rules; that is, rules controlling smoking in the public forum, in public places and in the workplace. In our province we have about 60 municipalities which now have implemented bylaws to control smoking in public places. We have only three municipalities in Ontario that have made bylaws to control smoking in the workplace. The three municipalities that have made those bylaws are Toronto, Etobicoke and the town of Markham.

**1650**

There are many other municipalities across this province that are poised to enter this field of legislation at this time. However, some of them have been waiting for the outcome of this Legislature’s decisions with regard to Bill 194. It is important that the context of that be placed, because Bill 194, while imposing some restrictions on the workplace—or the minister alleges that it places some restrictions on the workplace; I would debate that particular point—also permits a municipality to make bylaws in the future which would be more restrictive than this piece of legislation.

As members know, municipalities, under our constitutional domain in our province, are children of the provincial government. A municipality’s ability to make certain types of law depends upon provincial legislation. In each of the three cases I indicated before, Markham, Etobicoke and the city of Toronto, these particular municipalities have come forward to this Legislature and sought private legislation in order to gain the permission of this Legislature to go back to their council chambers and make bylaws controlling smoking in the workplace.

In the city of Toronto, over the past year we have experienced a regime of bylaws which are now in place across the city. Quite frankly, these particular bylaws are of much greater importance

than Bill 194. I would argue, and I will be developing that argument over the course of the next few days or weeks, that this particular bill does nothing at all to protect the smoker in the workplace.

The bill which I introduced some time ago, Bill 157, gives to each and every municipality across the province the right to do what the city of Toronto has already done. It allows each municipality—there are some 800 of them—to set up its own regime of bylaws and therefore put forward more restrictive or meaningful laws to control smoking in the workplace. I put forward Bill 157 because the cities of Ottawa, Hamilton and Windsor, for instance, are considering this kind of legislation and I did not want to see the taxpayers in those particular municipalities having to go to the necessary expense of hiring legal counsel to draft the particular enabling legislation and come down here to Toronto; I did not want to see the Legislature of Ontario having to waste its time, with respect to each and every municipality, and essentially do the same thing which we have already done for Toronto, Etobicoke and Markham.

So Bill 157 is a general enabling piece of legislation to allow each and every municipality to make its own bylaws to control smoking in the workplace and also to control smoking in the public place. It clarifies the jurisdiction of the municipalities to make those kinds of laws. The standing committee on social development, to which that bill was referred in November 1988, has not in fact dealt with Bill 157 at this time.

Bill 157 is my second choice. I would have preferred to see the province, be it the Minister of Labour (Mr Sorbara) or the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan) or any other minister, take an aggressive stance with regard to smoking in the workplace.

This particular piece of legislation, quite frankly, is a joke. Therefore, it is necessary for myself and I know my colleague the member for Hamilton West to attempt to make substantial amendments during this particular time in this debate.

I think it is important to note as well that in April when this committee was considering this legislation, it was not able to have the Minister of Labour with it due to illness on his part, and that was understood by the members of the committee. Unfortunately, at the very same time, the parliamentary assistant, who was handling that particular matter for the minister, could not even attend all of the hearings during that week, and in

fact missed all of the 22 public presentations before the committee in April.

Therefore, when we came to the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 194 in the social development committee, at that time we basically had a parliamentary assistant who had been with us for the ministry briefing on Monday afternoon, had missed all of the public input, came back into the process on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning not having had the opportunity to either view the tapes, because these particular proceedings were taped, or review the Hansard, as it had not been printed at that time, and therefore gave instruction, direction or whatever you might want to have it to the six Liberal members of the committee.

Therefore, I felt it was important that the Minister of Labour himself have the opportunity of hearing these amendments and perhaps give greater weight to them after considering some of the evidence which was put forward during those hearings.

In my view, Bill 194 is an attempt for the government of Ontario to create the impression in the public's mind that something is being done about controlling smoking in the workplace. The complete failure of the legislation as it now stands reported from the committee was brought forward by some very substantial groups in the province.

We are talking about groups that do a tremendous amount of good for the people of Ontario. I am talking about groups like the Canadian Cancer Society, like the Canadian Lung Association, and other very substantial groups that know very much about these issues and are concerned about the very ill effects of both firsthand and secondhand smoke.

On being questioned by opposition members during the hearings, they came to the conclusion that they would rather not have Bill 194 at all in its present state. They came to that conclusion because they have a concern which I believe is probably even greater than any other member of this Legislature could have with the health of the people of Ontario as it comes down on their associations, because the Canadian Cancer Society, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, the Ontario Lung Association and the Ontario Medical Association, which almost to a man in this province want some action taken in this part, have said this bill is not only not a step forward but is actually, in effect, a step backward.

**1700**

There was evidence to that during the committee hearings. That is exactly what the evidence

brought forward. Members will note that the last amendment I will be putting forward to section 13 in fact reflects my attitude and the attitude of many other groups that appeared in front of the committee towards this bill.

It is interesting to note what Bill 194 really does. Bill 194 puts all of the discretion, in the final case, in the hands of the employer to make the decision about where smoking and nonsmoking areas may or may not be. The employer has the final word. That means that if an employer is insensitive to the nonsmoking employees' plight, he can, under this legislation, have a nonsmoker sitting at one desk and a smoker sitting immediately adjacent to him.

It is interesting that under Bill 194 we have created two classes of citizens in Ontario. The provincial government has decreed for each and every public servant in this province that he or she shall be guaranteed a smoke-free environment when he or she goes to work. Under this government, they have said that government offices shall be smoke-free.

It is interesting to note as well that this Legislature, I understand, will very soon become the first Legislature in Canada to be a smoke-free Legislative Building. I congratulate the Board of Internal Economy on making that particular decision, which I understand will take place on 30 June, so that we will not, in Ontario at least, have a double standard between what happens to our public servants and the politicians and their staff. There will be one rule and one rule for all.

I do also want to congratulate the New Democratic Party caucus, which I believe took a step with regard to banning smoking in its work area prior to any other caucus, including my own. I congratulate them on that particular move. Of course, all caucuses will have to become smoke-free on 30 June of this year.

But what we have done here is to say that if you are a public servant, you can go to work each day and you are guaranteed a spot where you can enjoy working and not be harmed by secondhand smoke. What we are saying under Bill 194 is that you may go to work and the fellow or woman next to you may be smoking a cigarette all day or part of the day.

Fortunately, most people are more considerate than that and that will not happen to a very great degree. But the problem is that when it does happen there has to be a right for that nonsmoker to be guaranteed that he or she may go to work each day and work in a clean environment, an environment which is set and away from smoking.

During the committee, we heard from many of the people who were presenting evidence the fact that the studies have now conclusively come to the conclusion that secondhand smoke is a hazard to people who inhale it. That, of course, was most succinctly put by the Surgeon General in the United States, Dr Koop, in 1986 when he said:

"Critics often express that more research is required, that certain studies are flawed, or that we should delay action until more conclusive proof is produced. As both a physician and a public health official, it is my judgement that the time for delay is past; measures to protect the public health are required now. The scientific case against involuntary smoking as a health risk is more than sufficient to justify appropriate remedial action, and the goal of any remedial action must be to protect the nonsmoker from environmental tobacco smoke."

Dr Koop, of course, has been known as a leader in this particular area, and it is my hope that the Minister of Labour will see the error of his ways with regard to Bill 194 and will accept some substantial recommendations and amendments to this bill.

I might add that during the committee hearings there was very little difference between the support of my party and the NDP on this subject. I believe I was able to support all but one part of one amendment of the member for Hamilton West.

I want to indicate also that the groups that came before the committee over the two days during which we had hearings in April were absolutely livid with the government members and the Minister of Labour on their reluctance to accept meaningful amendments to this legislation. They did not come to the decision lightly when they stood together and called this bill a farce. This is what the Canadian Cancer Society is saying: "This bill is a farce." The Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation is saying, "Bill 194 is a farce." The Canadian Lung Association is saying, "Bill 194 is a farce."

I do not believe these groups should be taken lightly. They do not, quite frankly, get involved in political debate very often, but the potential for the importance of this particular piece of legislation is immense.

Dr Goodyear, who is a physician from Hamilton, said to the committee that this bill could be the most important piece of preventive health legislation this government would ever undertake. I do not believe the Minister of Labour or the Minister of Health, who is not here with us today, understand the importance this bill

could take with regard to the prevention of harm from secondhand smoking and the added benefit of encouraging many of our citizens to cease smoking or to seriously cut down on the amount of tobacco they inhale each day.

It has been shown that if smoking is banned in a particular workplace, for instance, 20 per cent of the workers will cease to smoke. It has been shown that the other 80 per cent will cut down substantially in terms of their intake of tobacco.

1710

Every day, 35 to 40 people die in our province as a result of firsthand and secondhand smoke. If we ever had a disaster in this province where that many people perished in a particular day, it would be in the headlines of each and every newspaper across this province. It would be on the six o'clock television news, it would be on the 11 o'clock television news and it would be on the news the next day.

Last week we dealt with a particular problem which was escalated, it appears now, beyond and above really what it was proposed to be or supposed to be, according to the Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley), who was tramping around this province up to Ottawa and holding out that there was a great environmental problem. We have a great environmental problem in this province of ours, and that relates to the whole issue of the use of tobacco.

It is interesting to note that the Minister of Health for this province has set a goal of reducing the number of addicted tobacco users from 30 per cent to 15 per cent of our population over the next 10 years, by the year 2000. I believe we could reach that goal much earlier if in fact Bill 194 became a meaningful piece of legislation.

As I have referred to earlier, Bill 194 is in fact the epitome of a piece of legislation which is an attempt by the government to say, "We're doing something," when in fact nothing is happening.

It is interesting to note the immediate reaction of the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council, those people who are in a position to benefit from tobacco addiction. They immediately wrote to employers and personnel agents across this province and told them how to get around Bill 194. They said all you had to do was draw a line around a particular desk, and that line could actually move from time to time, depending upon where you wanted to make your smoking area in the future.

During the committee hearings we put forward a number of amendments which would restrict and allow an employer at least some semblance of right in this particular piece of legislation. For

instance, I put forward an amendment whereby I wanted, at the very least, a smoke-free place or environment in our nursery schools and in our day care centres. It is interesting to note that the majority of the members for the Liberal party—and they hold the majority in that particular committee, as they do in this Legislative Assembly—voted that down.

They do not believe we should be more concerned with the inhalation of tobacco smoke by very young people. It is a medical fact that all of us who have been involved in this particular issue know: that young children in particular have a very difficult time taking on secondhand smoke as their bodies are not as strong as a full-grown adult and therefore it affects them to an even greater extent than it does adults.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** What about in the home, Norm?

**Mr Sterling:** I hear across the floor, "What about in the home?"

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** That's where children are really affected, aren't they? That's where they spend most of the time.

**Mr Sterling:** I would hope that a piece of legislation like this would encourage parents to recognize—

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** Why aren't you moving an amendment including the home?

**Mr Sterling:** The Minister of Labour says he wants to control smoking in the home. He wants me to say that. Our party has always tried to be reasonable when we are entering the area of regulation. We wanted to control smoking in the workplace because we believe that if this government took a real, substantial stand on dealing with controlling smoking in the workplace, the message would get out to our public that the issue of secondhand smoke is a serious one, and that they would carry the attitude not only when they went to work, but they would carry it back home when they were with their children and when they were with their family.

However, we are not of such a draconian view that we should enter into trying to legislate what people do or do not do in their homes. I have a real problem, quite frankly, when I see people who smoke, particularly women when they are pregnant. I have a real problem when I see people who smoke around women when they are pregnant. I am not happy when I see that. Quite frankly, I comment on it from time to time when I see it because there is now significant medical evidence that those children are born smaller and

usually have learning disabilities as a result of being born smaller.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** From secondhand smoke?

**Mr Sterling:** From secondhand smoke, as well. The minister asks, "From secondhand smoke?" That is the problem that we have with this. I am not sure that the minister's heart is really behind this particular piece of legislation.

**Mr Mackenzie:** Give us a bill that means something.

**Mr Sterling:** The member for Hamilton East says, "Give us a bill that means something." That is exactly what we are after. We will be moving a number of amendments again to try to convince the minister that, in fact, he should do something on this.

I do not know whether the minister—and I would like to ask him this and perhaps he would respond to me at some point in time—has had an opportunity to review the tapes of those two days when all of the groups gave their evidence. I certainly hope he has.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** I had a full briefing.

**Mr Sterling:** He has had a full briefing, but he has not reviewed the particular tapes. I wish the minister would sit down—because I suspect that this bill is going to be dealt with more than just this afternoon—and watch those particular tapes because the quality of witnesses was really quite substantial. Regarding the quality of the amendments and the arguments put forward, we probably could have saved time if the minister had listened to the tapes with regard to the arguments around all of the amendments which were put forward at that time.

The minister and I met, I must admit, and I thank him for the meeting prior to this particular bill coming up in the Legislature. I had hoped that he would consider some of the amendments which were put forward before, but I understand that that situation is such that he is not willing at this point in time to accept meaningful or substantial amendment to this particular bill.

**Mr Harris:** Surely you jest.

**Mr Sterling:** No, I hope he has seen the error of his ways and that he would, in fact, agree to make Bill 194—

**Mr Daigeler:** Are you going to take him up on his offer?

1720

**Mr Sterling:** I would take him up on his offer if he would come forward with something that was meaningful. The member for Nepean, who is a member of that committee and who voted

against some of these amendments before, just asked me that. However, I am not really hopeful that we are going to get that far.

Members know that in our parliamentary system the opposition has several methods of trying to bring some reason to a minister's head with regard to a legislation. One of them is putting forward meaningful and constructive amendments to legislation and the second is to delay the passage of the bill. I would like to see this bill go through in a quick manner if, in fact, the minister would be willing to accept the amendments, particularly with regard to section 3 of the bill.

I want to close these opening remarks with a quote from the World Health Organization with regard to its recognition of how bad smoking and tobacco addiction is to our general health. In 1975, it indicated, "Smoking-related diseases are such important causes of disability and premature death in developed countries that the control of cigarette smoking could do more to improve health and prolong life in these countries than any other single action in the whole field of preventive medicine."

We heard from the throne speech, these past few weeks, that the Minister of Health was in fact going to take some meaningful steps with regard to preventive health care. If in fact Bill 194 was made meaningful and was meaningful legislation, I believe that would be the most significant step she could take with regard to preventive health care in this province.

I have put forward a specific amendment to section 1. During the committee hearings, section 1 was amended to include a definition of "employer." The present definition says "a person who employs one or more employees or who contracts for the services of one or more persons." That is the definition put forward as an employer.

I felt the definition of "employer" should really mean the person who is in control of that particular workplace, the person who is actually there to make certain, if there is a nonsmoking area as defined by this bill—he or she is the one who is ultimately responsible or partly responsible for making certain a nonsmoking area is provided, if in fact that was what had been agreed upon.

I changed the definition in this particular amendment. I put forward the amendment that "'employer' means any person or persons who have control and responsibility for the workplace." This would include not only the situation which is already defined in the act, but also other

people who have control over the workplace. I wanted to widen that definition, because there are situations where a person is in control of not only his own employees or the environment of his own employees, but is also in control of the office environment, the factory environment etc., of employees of other people.

I put forward this amendment in the hope that the person who actually has control of that particular workplace will, in fact, be subject to the sanctions of this particular legislation. That is my first amendment.

**Mr Allen:** Mr Chairman, I would like to make a few remarks also on the return of this piece of legislation to the Legislature and to committee of the whole House. While I do not wish as much latitude as you gave the previous speaker, none the less I beg your indulgence for just a few moments.

This legislation quite clearly has not won the support of those who perhaps are its best judges, those who are best equipped to test and measure it as a measure which will benefit workers in terms of health and safety questions in the workplace. It has not received the imprimatur, for example, of the Ontario Federation of Labour, which is perhaps the body that, in terms of workplace health and safety, has the most direct experience of any institution in this province and the backing of a great number of persons who are interested in this kind of legislation.

That organization has stated quite unequivocally that this piece of legislation is not worth supporting. It requests the government to take the legislation back to the drawing boards and to bring forward a more adequate bill that will deal directly, concretely and fully with the real nature of the threat that environmental tobacco smoke provides in the workplace and to do it in a much fairer and more adequate way.

If you look then at the other organizations which equally have lined up in opposition to this legislation, you find that they represent virtually all of those engaged in health research related to cancer, health disease and allergic problems that afflict individuals; namely, if I were simply to name a number of them, the Ontario Public Health Association, the Ontario Lung Association, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Canadian Council on Smoking and Health, the Ontario Medical Association committee on public health, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, the Hamilton Regional Cancer Centre in my own city and then a number of organizations that deal directly with this kind of issue such as Alcohol and Drug Concerns, the Committee of Con-

cerned Tobacco Area Municipalities—which spoke from another perspective, I must say—the Non-Smokers’ Rights Association, Addiction Management Systems, the Smokers’ Freedom Society and the Student Movement Aimed at Restricting Tobacco.

All of those organizations, and some of them as coalitions include literally every single major health organization in this province, when they were questioned by myself and the member who just spoke, made it quite clear that if significant amendments were not forthcoming—and they were not forthcoming—to this legislation they could not support it. Worse than that, they said the bill would be worse than nothing at all.

The essential points they were making were perhaps twofold. First of all, this legislation is the first provincial legislation to come forward dealing with smoking in the workplace. In that respect, these organizations were hoping this administration would provide a piece of legislation that would be a substantial precedent for the other provinces across this country as they address this issue.

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What they discovered, unfortunately, was a bill that was virtually empty. It started out with a strong assertion—“There shall be no smoking in the workplace”—but then went on to provide no effective means of preventing smoking in the workplace from happening and, second, getting to people who were nonsmokers in the workplace.

The core of the legislation is a series of essentially pious intentions of no effect which led many of those organizations, one of them in fact, simply to say this is essentially a smokers’ rights bill. Looked at from a certain perspective, one could see how they were making that argument.

The second reason why this bill is worse than nothing is that inasmuch as the government has introduced it and then, of course, in the legislative process that we all go through here, invited comment, response and reaction, not just from community health agencies, but also from members of the opposition, it was necessary for the government members of the committee, in the course of debate, to reject specific proposals for making this a stronger bill, or for making it a bill that would be effective at all.

In the course of rejecting those arguments, the government in effect has weakened whatever momentum and argument was out there among employers and employees to actually seek substantial legislation, because the arguments at every turn undercut the only effective proposals

that would make for an healthful, smoke-free environment in the workplace. By the very token, therefore, of their having introduced a weak bill, begged those arguments and then rejected them, the situation now is much worse out there than it would otherwise have been without the bill.

Addiction Management Systems, an organization which has worked, with 100 companies, through the process of attempting to help them with the problems of smoking in the workplace, to find consensus solutions and to develop a smoke-free and healthful working environment with respect to tobacco smoke said it is now confronted, in the wake of the introduction of this legislation, with a major case. A large company has now been forced to soften a set of strong, nonsmoking proposals, simply because this legislation that was forthcoming was so weak and provided no pressure whatsoever for movement in the proper direction in the workplace.

For some reasons, it is important to say, from the point of view of the health sciences, health services and those who are trying to construct healthful and smoke-free environments in the workplace, it would have been better if this bill had not been introduced at all in the form it was, if the government was not prepared to accept amendments.

The scale of the issue, the threat to health, is quite clear at this point in time in medical research. We know, in the first instance, that firsthand smoke is often not as dangerous as secondhand smoke. The analysis that has been made of secondhand smoke indicates that the burning is less complete and that because of the byproducts that are released into the atmosphere, into the air space of a workplace—and frequently the quantity of smoke is more from smoke idling from cigarettes lying in ashtrays rather than from direct smoking—the balance of the smoke-laden atmosphere in a workplace can be worse than the actual smoke that is inhaled by smokers themselves.

When one lists the health risks of firsthand smoke, one has to bear in mind that fact. But the first set of information one has to deal with, of course, is that it has now been conclusively established that tobacco smoking is the cause of at least 30 per cent of all cancers. Thirty per cent of the heart disease deaths in Ontario in 1984 have been analysed and are attributed to this practice. Eighty per cent of lung cancer cases are attributable to smoking.

There is a tenfold increase in the risk of myocardial infarction as experienced in women

who smoke and use oral contraceptives, a combination that is not at all uncommon. There is an 80 per cent or 90 per cent instance of chronic obstructive lung disease caused by smoking. Over half a million Canadians suffer from this particular problem and smokers are 70 per cent more likely to die than nonsmokers. Pregnant women who smoke have a high incidence of preterm deliveries and infants have lower birth weight.

Obviously, inasmuch as the smoking is much more consistent and direct in its impact on the direct smoker, those figures do not hold for the imbibing of secondhand smoke. But given that the elements of secondhand smoke are more serious in their consequences as carcinogens, there is at least some growing research which makes it quite plain that involuntary breathing of secondhand smoke is of a major health impact, such that the Canadian Labour Board and others at the labour end of things have labelled it a major health hazard. Studies such as *Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*, issued by the environmental health directorate of the health protection branch in 1987, also make quite plain the impact, in particular upon women who are pregnant, of the involuntary inhaling of secondhand smoke.

The carcinogens are so serious in both aspects of smoking, firsthand and secondhand, that those who deal with the scale of threat make it quite plain that those carcinogens are among the most serious and deadly known to us in our investigations of environmental health problems. They are so difficult to erase in adequate quantity that ventilation experts make it quite plain, in turn, that in order to remove involuntary smoke as a risk in the workplace from those who imbibe it in a secondhand fashion—let alone for those who imbibe it in secondhand fashion and smoke as well—it would be necessary for the air exchange system to exchange the air at such a rate that there would have to be a virtual wind blowing through the workplace constantly. In fact, the load that would be put on any existing ventilation systems would be so great that they would break down.

Regarding the capacity to move to a safe level, I can certainly quote this at some length, if members want. I may do so a little bit later when we come to the actual provision relating to designated smoking areas. There are studies, for example, done in the United States by one of the experts in this field, J. L. Repace, PhD, who is a physicist and policy analyst at the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The studies make it quite plain that, in the first place, even if one ignores the fact that the carcinogens are of such a risk that there is no safe level for some of them, if you were to even attempt to move to anything that might be hypothetically close to a safe level, you simply could not find the ventilation system that either could do it or could be afforded in terms of the heating or cooling of air that would be necessary in winter or in summer.

The issues that we are dealing with here are obviously in some respects technically difficult and complex, but the simple message is quite clear: Unless you provide virtually a complete ban on smoking in the workplace and then provide separately ventilated workplaces as smoking stations or designated smoking areas, you are not going to be able to effectively assure working people that they are working in a healthy and safe environment as far as environmental tobacco smoke is concerned.

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We will be coming, of course, to a number of amendments that will relate to various aspects of this bill, including the one the member has just recently introduced with regard to the definition of "employer." I myself introduced a similar kind of amendment. I was not entirely unhappy with the one the government introduced as an amendment, but I do note that it is missing a certain component.

The amendment to the bill that was passed in committee reads, "'employer' means a person who employs one or more employees or who contracts for the services of one or more persons." What that amendment unfortunately leaves to one side is the person who may have the direct control and responsibility for the workplace. The amendment includes no specific reference to responsibility for the workplace.

In that sense, given the complexity of hiring relationships in a given building where you might have several companies functioning under several different kinds of ownership, where the actual owners are sometimes at some distance but where there are others who are charged with responsibility for maintaining that workplace and have the direct control and responsibility, it seems appropriate in a piece of legislation like this not to allow it to get shuffled down and up the corporate ladder or the ladder of management responsibility, but to make it plain that it not only means those who are the ultimate employer but also those who have immediate control and responsibility of the workplace.

It is in that respect that I am certainly happy to support this amendment to the amendment that was made in committee and I look forward to going on through a number of other amendments as we attempt to make this bill a workable bill for the working people of Ontario. I must say that if this bill is not amended in any substantial form, it will certainly be impossible for this party to support it.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** I have been listening as attentively as I can to the comments of both the member for Carleton (Mr Sterling) and the member for Hamilton West. I have to say that I am frankly disappointed, extremely disappointed, to hear my friends the member for Hamilton West and the member for Carleton say that they cannot see their way to supporting this bill.

Indeed I suspect, although I am not quite clear from the comments of the member for Carleton whether he hopes to whip his caucus into opposing this bill when it comes back out of this committee, it sounds to me like the official opposition is going to oppose it as it comes out of committee. If memory serves me, I think they supported the bill when it was debated in the House on second reading, and it would be a shame if the members of that party went on record as opposing the bill.

The reason is this: What we have here in Bill 194, An Act to restrict Smoking in Workplaces, is the most significant piece of legislation ever proposed in a jurisdiction to restrict people from smoking in workplaces; the most significant piece of legislation, which will have the effect my friend the member for Carleton wants to bring about, and that is the elimination of smoking anywhere in Ontario.

I applaud him for that objective, but the fact is that this legislation is designed to control and restrict smoking in the private workplace in Ontario. No other government has undertaken such far-sweeping measures, and I suggest to members of this committee that Ontario's legislation will become a leader and a precedent as other provinces come to grips with the regulation of smoking in the private workplace.

My friend the member for Carleton will not even acknowledge that in this bill the basic minimum standard is that smoking shall be prohibited in the private workplace. He should read the bill. That is what it says. Then it says clearly that if the employer desires to verify—

**Mr Wildman:** In this case you are saying half a cigarette is better than the whole one.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** The member from wherever he comes from simply will not listen. We on

this side paid the courtesy to the member for Hamilton West of listening to what he had to say, so I will ask my friend just to bear with me for a few minutes while I explain the nature of the bill.

The minimum standard in this bill is as follows: that smoking shall be prohibited in the private enclosed workplace and that where an employer decides that he wishes to permit some degree of smoking, having consulted with his workers, with the workforce in that workplace, there may be a designation of up to 25 per cent of the enclosed workplace as an area where smoking may be permitted. That is the minimum standard.

In the Ministry of Labour, we are in the business of providing minimum standards. The fact is that from that minimum standard we fully expect that perhaps the majority of workplaces will simply ban smoking altogether, so the problem of secondhand smoke will not even arise, just as we have minimum standards with respect to wages in the province but that does not mean we expect that everyone simply be paid the minimum wage. We are setting standards, and in setting these standards we are taking probably the most dramatic step ever taken in Ontario to deal with the question of people smoking in public places or workplaces, private or public.

Members opposite should have a look at what has gone on over the past 15 or 20 years. It was the case just a few years ago that people routinely smoked in the loges of movie theatres; it was the case that people routinely smoked when they stood in line to see and visit a bank teller; it was the case that people routinely smoked in supermarkets, and it was the case that people routinely smoked in a wide variety of places. Bit by bit, we have seen a very dramatic change in our culture.

The business of passing laws is the business of moving that process along, so that we have seen, for example, municipality after municipality regulate more effectively smoking in public places. We see it fairly effectively regulated. This bill, by the way, makes it clear that municipalities that choose to take steps for the regulation of smoking within their municipalities continue to be free to do so.

Notwithstanding that we have dealt with movie theatres and other public places, the government has seen fit to say that in the private workplace, in which after all so many of us spend so much of our time, it is appropriate to set a new standard, to create a system where the rights of the individuals who do not smoke are respected as well. We have done that in this bill, and in

doing so, we move the yardstick along in a very significant way.

That is why I am so terribly distressed to see the member of this Legislature who has taken this crusade most effectively to the public in this province put himself on record as opposing this bill if it is not amended. I hope the bill will pass; I am sure the bill will eventually pass. The fact is that when it is passed, when it is in place, we will see the changing dynamic of smoking in this province continue apace, achieving many of the objectives that I know my friend the member for Carleton would support.

I would like him, as he argues for his other amendments, to point out to this House and to the members of this House what jurisdictions have moved with legislation on a province-wide, a nation-wide or a state-wide basis to restrict as effectively as Bill 194 restricts the extent to which smoking will take place in private workplaces.

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I am a little bit afraid that my friend the member for Carleton, particularly when I see the final amendment that he is proposing, is not taking this subject seriously enough. I know from his crusades that he is serious on this subject. He would like to go very significantly further; I know he would like to see the virtual elimination of smoking right throughout the province.

We have talked on this and we have had our discussions, and I think his objective of improving the overall health and wellbeing of people in this province is an admirable one. I think the objective of what he suggests to me privately, that we could save some lives—and I do not know how many thousands of lives—if we simply eliminated smoking entirely from private workplaces, public workplaces, all workplaces and residences, is a lawful objective. He carries that crusade probably as vigilantly and with as much force as he carried his crusade against the extension of funding to Catholic secondary schools: because he believes in it.

But my responsibility, as Minister of Labour, is not to bring about a virtual ban on smoking in Ontario. That will be perhaps for consideration for another day, at another time, by another Parliament. My obligation, as Minister of Labour, is to propose in this Parliament effective means of regulating the private workplace, whether it is in the area of minimum wages, health and safety standards, appropriate systems of compensation, or appropriate systems for doing a wide variety of things that people in the

private sector look to government to do in respect of our workplaces.

This is what this bill does. It sets a new standard; a standard that says, as I mentioned earlier, that smoking shall be prohibited in the private workplace.

Let us look at the experience that we already see in the absence of a statutory provision where workers and employers have asked themselves the question as to regulation of smoking in the workplace. For example, I think of a visit I recently made to the Ottawa Citizen in our nation's capital. As I approached the building to spend half an hour with the editorial board, I saw a sign on the front of the building announcing to all and sundry who entered the building, "This is a smoke-free workplace."

What had happened there? The workforce, through their union representatives, had entered into discussions with the employer, had raised the issue at the table, and they had worked it out. Over the course of several months they discussed it.

**Mr Mackenzie:** Unions are always ahead of you.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** I tell my friend the member for Hamilton East that actually in this case it was the employer that first raised the issue and asked the unions to come to the table and work out a specific regime. Indeed, perhaps, I tell the member that they may be way ahead of me, but in this case the government's action really represents true leadership.

What happened at the Ottawa Citizen, I tell the member for Hamilton East, is that they sat down at the table and asked themselves a few very tough questions. But it got down to this: "Shall we have areas which are designated, or shall we completely eliminate smoking from this workplace?" The decision was made, in that case, to create a smoke-free workplace.

There are dozens and dozens of businesses that are taking those steps. What is new about Bill 194 is that it will require, I tell my friend the member for Nipissing (Mr Harris) as he nods off, every employer in the province to ask itself this question. And they can solve it simply. They can just say, "We are not designating here." That is what the Ontario public service has done, in anticipation of this legislation. It has said, "As far as the Ontario public service is concerned, as an employer we will go the full route. We will simply not designate areas where smoking is prohibited."

That is perfectly all right. There have been some rough edges for those who smoke to get

over, but the employer in this case has offered the workforce the opportunity to participate in cessation programs and has prepared an implementation strategy, and by and large, it has gone rather well.

As I said at the beginning of my remarks, I am disappointed that the member for Carleton, in particular, who I know is very serious about this issue, would not see fit to encourage the speedy consideration of this bill in committee of the whole House so that it could receive third-reading consideration and then be proclaimed into law. The bill has a commencement date in it of July 1, and I hope this bill can be considered speedily here and be sent back to the House and given third reading.

I look forward to the comments the other members will be making as other amendments are proposed. For my part, I am delighted that the government has been able to bring this legislation forward, and as I said, I hope we can deal with it as quickly as possible.

**Mr Daigeler:** I just would like to make a few comments, if it is permitted.

**The Deputy Chairman:** I did not note the House leader for the third party, the member for Nipissing.

**Mr Harris:** I will be very brief. I was trying, as I listened to the minister's diatribe, to understand his logic, whether he was arguing for or against the amendment. As I understand it, we are dealing with an amendment that amends section 1 in the definition of "employer." This is a fairly lengthy piece of legislation, as I see the number of amendments before us. I suggest to the minister that if we are going to get through it before the summer, as he wishes, we might want to deal with the amendments in a rather serious way.

I would be interested in hearing from the minister if there is some reason why the amendment to redefine the definition of "employer" as moved by the member for Carleton is unacceptable to him. If it is acceptable to him, I suggest the fact that the minister did not even refer to the amendment in his comments suggests to me, as has been mentioned by the member for Carleton, that he does have his blinkers on when it comes to this legislation, that indeed the minister's heart is not in this particular piece of legislation. The suggestion that has been made by a number of people is that the wrong minister or ministry, or both, is carrying forth this legislation.

I think it really is something important, particularly to the health field. Before I prepare

to vote on this particular amendment, I would like to hear from the minister what it is—

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** Why don't you sit down?

**Mr Harris:** The minister says "Why don't you sit down?" I listened to 15 minutes of the minister's comments, supposedly dealing with this amendment. I think it is important that I get an understanding, as an interested committee member, of what indeed is the problem with the proposed amendment to the definition of "employer."

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** I think the member for Nipissing raises a good question. I did not hear my friend the member for Carleton speak to his amendment directly, but I want to answer the question raised by the member for Nipissing. The answer is simple. The definition in the bill as presented is the mirror image of the definition of "employer" in the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

For the purposes of enforcement it is probably preferable to maintain that symmetry in that because there is reference in this bill to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, and it will be enforced through the same mechanism. "Employer" as defined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act has been useful and appropriate for 10 years under that act and we feel we should continue, particularly to avoid confusion. We would not want a situation where an individual feels he is an employer for the purposes of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, but not an employer for Bill 194.

There are some other problems with the definition as proposed by the member for Carleton, including the suggestion in his definition that an employer should be "any person or persons who has control and responsibility for the workplace." Members will know there are a number of occasions where individuals who are workers have control and responsibility from time to time for the workplace. Members would not want to saddle that individual with the responsibility of the employer as contemplated under the bill and certainly not as contemplated under the amendments as proposed by the member for Carleton.

So there are serious problems with this definition, not the least of which is that under the bill the employer is subject to fines of some \$25,000, whereas the worker is subject to fines of some \$500. If a worker is, for the time being, a person who has control of the workplace, he could magically go from someone who is subject to a \$500 fine to someone who is subject to a \$25,000 fine, simply by virtue of the fact that he has been given, as the definition proposed by the member for Carleton suggests, control or responsibility for the workplace. So the definition is somewhat defective.

On motion by Hon Mr Sorbara, the committee of the whole reported progress on one bill and one bill with a certain amendment.

The House adjourned at 1803.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

### PREBUDGET CONSULTATION

**8. Mr Jackson:** Would the Treasurer provide a copy of his reply to the 14 February 1989 letter addressed to him by Sandra Kerr, president of the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues? [Originally tabled 27 February 1989. Tabled 26 April 1989]

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** A copy of my reply to the letter, dated 14 February 1989, from Sandra Kerr, president of the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues, is attached:

"Ms Sandra Kerr, President, Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues, 800 Bay Street, 5th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1N3.

"Dear Ms Kerr:

"I have received the council's brief conveying recommendations for the Ontario government's fiscal policy for the upcoming budget.

"Please be assured that I will take the council's suggestions into consideration as I prepare the 1989 budget.

"Thank you for participating in the budget consultative process.

"Yours truly, Robert F. Nixon, Treasurer of Ontario."

**9. Mr Jackson:** Would the Treasurer comment on each of the five proposals listed under the heading "Potential Revenue Sources" on page 3 of the 14 February 1989 letter addressed to him by Sandra Kerr, specifically stating whether or not he supports each proposal? [Originally tabled 27 February 1989. Tabled 26 April 1989]

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** The Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues recently submitted five "potential revenue sources" as a part of the prebudget consultation process. Due to the conventions of the budget process, comments on the proposals are not appropriate at this time.

### PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS TAX

**10. Mr Jackson:** Would the Treasurer provide copies of any studies, memoranda, documents or letters within his possession which discuss the feasibility of placing a special tax on pornographic magazines, films and videos? [Originally tabled 27 February 1989. Tabled 26 April 1989]

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** The Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues recently proposed a tax on pornographic materials as a part of the prebudget consultation process. Due to the

conventions of the budget process, any studies, memoranda, documents or letters which may exist are not currently available.

### RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

#### PROPOSED BUILDING SITE

Sessional paper P-4, re Runnymede Development Corp.

**Hon Mr Bradley:** The Runnymede Development Corp has proposed the construction of four high-rise towers representing 1,400 units on the property at Gerrard Street East and Clonmore Drive in the city of Scarborough.

Since the proposal for development was originally presented, the following approvals have been put into place:

An official plan amendment was passed by council;

Rezoning to allow apartment buildings was passed in 1968;

A section 45 approval under the Environmental Protection Act was granted in 1974;

An order of mandamus was granted in 1979 by the Supreme Court (Divisional Court) obliging the city to issue building permits;

A certificate of approval was issued in 1984 for the excavation and transfer of domestic garbage buried on the site.

The section 45 approval and the certificate of approval were required due to prior use of a portion of the site for a municipal landfill which was closed in 1959.

The development agreement between Runnymede and the city of Scarborough requires that the ministry be satisfied with the environmental controls, including controls over the potential migration of gas.

A number of requests have been made for an environmental assessment of the project. These are currently under review.

#### WASTE DISPOSAL

Sessional paper P-5, re waste disposal.

**Hon Mr Bradley:** The waste management concerns raised by the Association of Superannuated Women Teachers are important issues faced by every municipality in Ontario.

In June 1987 the Ministry of the Environment introduced the comprehensive funding program for waste management to assist municipalities with their waste management responsibilities.

The ministry's primary goal in waste management is to reduce the amount of waste generated and to reuse, recycle and recover that waste which is produced. These actions will help further protect the environment and conserve resources. The more we divert from landfill and incineration, the less the impact on the air, soils and waterways of our province.

On 10 March 1989, I announced my ministry's plan to divert 25 per cent of Ontario's household, commercial and industrial waste from landfill and incineration by 1992 and 50 per cent by the year 2000. This plan recognizes the importance of waste reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery (4Rs) in satisfying Ontario's long-term waste management needs.

This plan reinforces our commitment to the 4Rs already demonstrated through other initiatives.

My ministry has moved expeditiously on methods to accomplish this goal. Support for municipal recycling alone has been increased 10-fold from \$750,000 in 1985-86 to \$7.7 million in 1988-89. With our soft drink container regulations, we have seen the soft drink industry commit another \$20 million over four years to municipal recycling.

Over 120 municipalities have implemented multimaterial curbside recycling projects to date. This represents over 1.4 million households using the blue box system to recycle. Many of these projects have already expanded their service areas to include apartment buildings. This expansion will continue in the future as more municipalities experience the benefits of recycling.

We also support initiatives in other areas, such as waste paper recycling in offices, school recycling and composting.

We support not only municipal recycling but also initiatives by the private sector to reduce, reuse, recycle and recover the material values in wastes.

A committee consisting of the city of Peterborough, the local Kinsmen Club and the ministry has been established to hold a household hazardous waste collection day in September 1989.

The ministry agrees that it is important for the municipalities to expand the service area of the blue box program to include apartments. A number of municipalities have already undertaken to do this. We encourage and support any municipality to contact the minister to find out how to extend the service area to apartment buildings.

## GAME FISH

Sessional paper P-6, re size limits on game fish.

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** Size limits were removed from many species of fish during the late 1950s and early 1960s. The size limit on walleye (yellow pickerel) was specifically removed in 1956 for all walleye caught by angling. At present, we do not have some size limits in place for various species, but these limits are not province-wide; nor are they entirely the "minimum" and "maximum" size limits called for in the petition.

In considering size limits, there are three basic tenets of fisheries biology to keep in mind: (1) a fish's rate of growth is determined by, among other things, the water body in which it lives and the density of that species in the water body; (2) most fish species tend to produce more eggs as they grow older; and (3) at a given point in time, in a population that has no size limits, there are probably more young fish in that given population than there are old fish. Therefore, if one's objective is to maximize the number of eggs produced by a given population of fish, the correct size restriction strategy is to protect those fish of reproductive age and not primarily the immature or undersized fish that have a high probability of dying anyway from natural causes or of falling prey to another species.

Recently, this ministry has begun a series of experimental size limits in selected lakes and, in particular, for yellow pickerel. These restrictions include slot size limits, which allow anglers to harvest the more plentiful small fish and also the relatively large fish, while at the same time protecting the medium-sized fish, which produce considerably more eggs than young fish spawning for the first time. In other areas, we have introduced trophy restrictions, which allow an angler to keep only one large fish rather than several. This has been done in an effort to maintain high-quality trophy fisheries. In some instances, where a species' fecundity is low and its growth is generally slow (such as with muskellunge), we have retained minimum size limits, although these size limits vary across the province, depending upon the local growth patterns of fish.

I understand the concerns of the petitioners but would still suggest that establishing minimum size limits for our game fish is not the answer. Indeed, studies in the United States have shown that mean length, weight, growth and angler catch of yellow pickerel all declined under a regime of minimum size limits. My ministry will

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continue the process of developing suitable types of size limits as new information becomes available concerning the relationship between fish, their environment and fishing pressure.

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS\*

(130 seats)

Second Session, 34th Parliament

**Lieutenant Governor: Hon Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC**

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)  
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)  
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)  
 Beer, Charles (York North L)  
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)  
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)  
**Bradley, Hon James J.**, Minister of the Environment (St Catharines L)  
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)  
 Breagh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)  
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)  
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)  
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)  
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)  
**Caplan, Hon Elinor**, Minister of Health (Oriole L)  
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)  
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)  
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)  
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)  
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)  
**Conway, Hon Sean G.**, Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)  
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)  
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)  
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)  
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)  
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)  
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)  
**Curling, Hon Alvin**, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)  
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)  
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St Catharines-Brock L)  
**Eakins, Hon John F.**, Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)  
**Edighoffer, Hon Hugh A.**, Speaker (Perth L)  
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)  
**Elston, Hon Murray J.**, Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Financial Institutions (Bruce L)  
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)  
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)  
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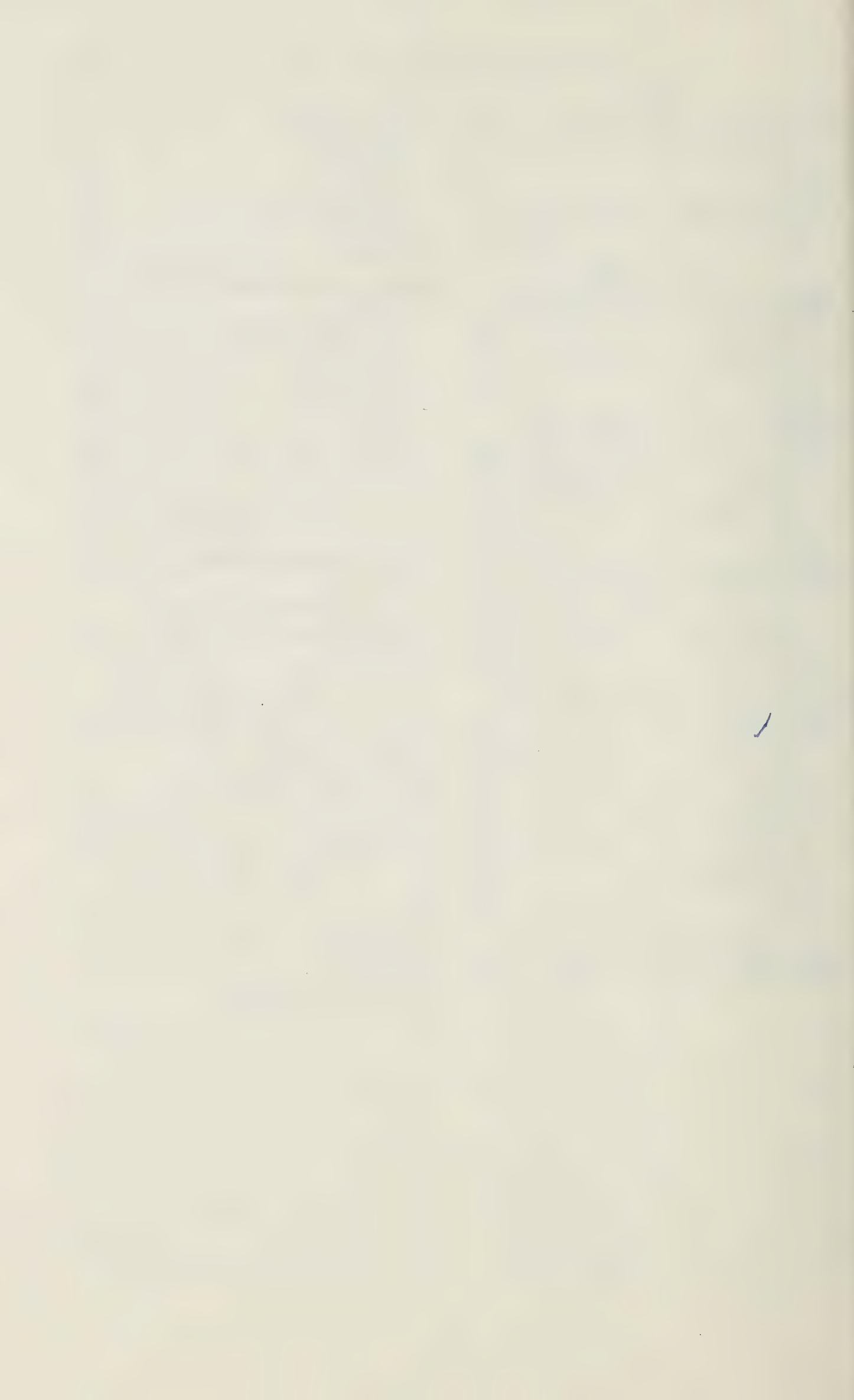
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No. 14

# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario



**Second Session, 34th Parliament**  
Wednesday, 17 May 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, 17 May 1989

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

**Mr Allen:** Today is budget day in Ontario. It is the day we prioritize in material terms who gets what in the household of the provincial economy. It is a day in which we state publicly the value we place upon the many participants in our common life. There has been in recent months a great outpouring of concern, an outcry from all sides that we can no longer tolerate the enormity of hunger, homelessness, and especially child poverty in this wealthy province.

The unprecedented coalition, the marches, the rally and the media coverage of the campaign against poverty have called on the government to make stamping out poverty in all its forms the first business of the province and of this Legislature: 360,000 poor children are 360,000 poor children too many.

There is hardly a ministry of this government for which poverty is not a major cost. Business, labour, religious leaders, educators, social workers and poverty groups alike agree on the economic losses, the social costs and the moral decay the old and the new poverty entail.

There is a plan, the Social Assistance Review Committee report, and the throne speech declared an intent to invest "in the future of our children." Today, the people of Ontario demand nothing less from the province than the \$200 million necessary for the first stage of the Social Assistance Review Committee's attack on poverty. Nothing less will do.

We reject in advance any deferral of action based on federal inaction or the federal budget. The question is simply whether or not all our citizens go forward as equal partners in this great province. Today, this Liberal government will give its answer to that fundamental question.

### CONTAMINATED FUEL

**Mr McLean:** My statement is directed to the Minister of the Environment. He recently announced that his ministry was aware for quite some time that United States companies were

mixing toxic coolants and lubricants with diesel or heating oil to avoid the high cost of legitimate disposal methods. He also admitted his ministry's investigators suspected toxic waste was being mixed with waste crankcase oil from the US. That was distinct for Ontario.

These toxic chemicals, like polychlorinated biphenyls, produce toxic emissions like furans and dioxins when burned in normal combustion engines of cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles and boats. There are certainly a lot of these vehicles in Ontario.

It frightens me that his ministry's poor communications, lack of attention, inactivity and outright bungling have put the people of this province at risk. What about people like me who use furnace oil to heat their homes, people like me who have grandchildren living in furnace-oil-heated homes? The minister has put our grandchildren's health at risk.

One simply cannot believe he is protecting and preserving our environment, and more important, the people of Ontario. The minister is not right in his statements and yesterday the Premier (Mr Peterson) backed up what he has done. They are both wrong.

### WHEATLEY AND RONDEAU PROVINCIAL PARKS

**Mr McGuigan:** We are approaching the Victoria Day weekend, known among young peer groups as May Two-Four weekend, the unofficial beginning of summer. May Two-Four has long been marked with rowdiness and vandalism at provincial parks in many areas of the southwest. The noise and trouble have risked turning many, especially family and senior campers, away from the parks.

Ontario's provincial parks have an excellent reputation in the province. Campers from our neighbouring provinces and states and many from Europe and elsewhere speak very highly of the network. It is because of this reputation and because of the economic, environmental and natural value of maintaining a healthy provincial parks system that I commend the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr Kerrio) for his decision last year and again this year to place a 10-day

alcohol ban on two provincial parks in Essex-Kent.

From 12 May to 22 May, Wheatley Provincial Park and Rondeau Provincial Park patrons will be spared the hazards of alcohol-induced camper rowdyism. The move was very successful in 1988. It is unfortunate this type of ban must be put in place, but I am sure responsible campers will not be impaired by the enforcement.

#### FOREST MANAGEMENT

**Mr Wildman:** The federal Conservatives have used the creation of the new Department of Forestry as a diversion to mask the fact that the federal government is making severe cuts in the federal financial contribution to forest regeneration across Canada and in Ontario. The Honourable Frank Oberle has admitted that as part of the federal budget cuts, the Tories are reducing the federal share of the federal-provincial forest resource development agreements.

The Mulroney government has cut \$28 million from forestry expenditures this year. The Canada-Ontario forest resource development agreement ran out on 31 March, but it will apparently be extended, with these cuts in funding, for one more year while negotiations for new agreements take place. The federal Tory cutbacks on forest spending, combined with the cutbacks by the provincial Liberal government as part of the so-called "emerging vision for the 1990s" of the Ministry of Natural Resources, are occurring despite the fact some sawmills are already facing timber shortages.

There is a huge backlog of unregenerated cutover lands and these cutbacks mean much of them will remain unplanted. This will mean less timber for the mills in Ontario and increased unemployment across northern Ontario. Both governments, federal and provincial, must commit increased funding for forest management. These cutbacks threaten the future economic viability of the lumber and pulp and paper industries and the communities dependent upon them for jobs.

#### WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

**Mr Pollock:** Over 92 years ago, at Squire's Hall in Stoney Creek, the first Women's Institute meeting was held. Adelaide Hoodless was instrumental in forming the first organization. The Department of Agriculture's support of this new organization was only natural, given the fact it was aimed at rural women and the express purpose was for the betterment of rural home life.

This was clearly laid out at the second meeting of the organization when it adopted as its objectives the following:

"To promote the knowledge of household science which shall lead to improvements in house construction with special attention to home sanitation, to a better understanding of the economic and hygienic values of foods and fuels and to a more scientific care of children with a view of raising the general standards of the health of our people."

The Women's Institute offers scholarships for continued education, sponsors family nights, works with and promotes 4-H clubs and offers prizes for various competitions.

During both world wars and the Korean conflict, the Women's Institutes lent their support to all members for the improved comfort and aid of our servicemen and women. In 1902, the motto "For home and country" was selected and since then has been universally adopted.

Would all members of this assembly please join with me in welcoming the Wellman's Women's Institute, situated in the west gallery.

1340

#### LEBANON

**Mr McGuinty:** I wish to express concern about the tragic situation in Lebanon: the systematic bombardment of some districts of Beirut with attacks on civilian targets—hospitals, schools, food depots and power stations; hundreds of innocent victims—children, the elderly; the population deprived of essential needs.

My Lebanese constituents have expressed their anxiety over the fate of their families still there and of their homeland, where one of the most vicious civil wars in this century has raged for 14 years, with people living under gun law and political violence, entire villages destroyed, thousands homeless and 150,000 people, mainly civilians, killed.

Aware of the complexity of this matter, we implore our Prime Minister to promote a new effort at reconciliation and to come to the help of the victims of this war. The Lebanese people were founding members of the United Nations. They deserve international assistance. They have a right to security and peace. At this tragic hour of its history, Lebanon must not be left alone, forgotten.

We must not be indifferent to the plea of the Lebanese people. Their sufferings should be our concern. Their plight is ours. The rights of all are diminished when the rights of any are violated.

There is a consistent ethic with regard to respect for all human life: a seamless garment; it is all of one piece. The basic qualification to be concerned about the plight of the Lebanese people is that one be a member of the human race.

### SMALL BUSINESS

**Mr Farnan:** I have a brief message for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr Kwinter) from the small businesses of the Golden Triangle.

The minister has a group of backbench MPPs who are organizing small business workshops around the province. The Golden Triangle is the fastest-growing region of this entire province. Of the seven workshops that have been organized, not one of them is in the Golden Triangle.

What good is it to the people of Kitchener and Waterloo to have a Liberal cabinet member and a couple of Liberal backbenchers if the Liberal government will not recognize the expansion of small business within the Golden Triangle?

The second message from small business is to the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon). Small business is saying to him, "Cut out these corporate welfare giveaways with direct grants and put the money into small business tax incentives."

### ORAL QUESTIONS

#### MOOSE RIVER POWER DEVELOPMENT

**Mr Charlton:** I have a question for the Minister of Energy. The minister will be aware that Ontario Hydro is proceeding with plans to produce about 2,100 megawatts of hydroelectric power in the Moose River drainage basin. He will know that this drainage basin contains about 58 potential sites for small hydraulic development. However, Ontario Hydro has proceeded to designate 14 of those sites as its preferred sites and is presently circulating a proposal in the Ministry of Natural Resources.

To date, there has been absolutely no public consultation on their proposed development of the Moose River drainage basin over the next 30 years. Can the minister tell us why there has been no public consultation in the area?

**Hon Mr Wong:** The government is very interested in making sure that we encourage small hydraulic development in Ontario. It is one of our priorities. We have many demand management and private sector generation initiatives that this government would like to initiate, along with Ontario Hydro. Then, of course, there are the supply-side options.

In answer to the honourable member's question, let me say that this is perhaps one of a number of such situations where we have to try to streamline the process. I would like to inform the honourable member that we are in the process of developing a parallel generation policy paper, which I hope will address questions like the one the honourable member has raised.

**Mr Charlton:** The Ministry of Energy is not the only one that is interested in seeing large numbers of small hydraulic developments in Ontario. Include this caucus and this member. On the other hand, we are more interested in seeing the ministry do it correctly.

We have residents in the Moose River drainage basin, and more specifically, we have native peoples living in the drainage basin. Through two sets of select committee hearings, Ontario Hydro has assured the select committee that the social and cultural impacts of its proposals will be taken into account in the planning process. How can those social and cultural aspects be taken into account when they have already eliminated 44 potential sites in the basin and chosen their preferred 14 sites without any social or cultural input?

**The Speaker:** Order. The question has been asked.

**Hon Mr Wong:** As I indicated in my previous answer, what we in the government are trying to do is to improve the process. We want to streamline it. Energy and electricity are extremely profound in their importance to this province. We have to make sure, from energy, economic, social and environmental considerations, that we find the right mechanism so that we can respond and react effectively.

**Mr Pouliot:** Surely the minister will be aware that what is being proposed by Ontario Hydro will, at a minimum, affect the way people live up north. For instance, it will for ever change their wildlife and crucial and vital fish habitats. This is what Alex Spence, who is the chairman of the Mushkegowuk council, says about Ontario Hydro's proposals, "There certainly will be a great impact. Our traditional way of life will indeed be jeopardized. Most people are not aware of this. None of the native organizations in the area have received any detailed information, and nobody has approached us for any talks or consultation." Therefore, the question is simple: Should native people be consulted in the planning and development stages?

**Hon Mr Wong:** I wish to assure the honourable member that in addition to all of the energy

and economic factors, the livelihood and well-being of the native peoples and the peoples in that area and region are certainly important, not only to Ontario Hydro but to the government of Ontario. I assure the honourable member I will take another look at the situation and keep the honourable members informed.

**The Speaker:** New question, the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore.

**Mrs Grier:** My question is for the Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley), who is expected, I understand, so I would like to stand down my question, with your permission.

**The Speaker:** Is there agreement to stand down the question?

Agreed to.

#### WETLANDS MANAGEMENT

**Mr Sterling:** I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources. Under the minister's proposed policy statement on wetlands, he recognizes provincially significant wetlands by category, from one to seven.

According to this document, a wetland is important if it "contains habitats of critical importance to fish and wildlife population and/or have an essential hydrological role in the watershed and/or have a significant social or economic benefit." What is the minister doing now, before this particular policy paper is accepted and comes under the Planning Act, to protect class 1 and class 2 wetlands in our province?

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** I feel very pleased that one of the first initiatives I took as a minister was to speed up the whole process of identifying important wetlands across the province. I inherited a plan that was going to take five years, minimally, to identify the wetlands. That has been speeded up by half, and I am pleased to say that the survey that we have made and the identification process is moving a step forward in identifying them. The planning and the protection of those wetlands is now a very high priority.

1350

**Mr Sterling:** In spite of the fact that I did not get any response as to what the minister is going to do now, I want to point out to him that in the township of West Carleton, near Ottawa, a developer has recently filled in part of Constance Creek, which according to his ministry is a class 1 wetland. The developer intends to use this area as part of a golf course.

One of the purposes of the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act is to provide for the use,

management and perpetuation of the fish, wildlife and other natural resources dependent on such waters. The minister now has wide powers under section 10 of that act to make an order to remove this fill and hold an inquiry into this matter. Is he willing to take this step to preserve class 1 wetlands?

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** There have been many initiatives taken already, and I think one of the major initiatives is that we, together with Ducks Unlimited, have put a considerable sum of money into acquiring great acreages of wetland.

I am not sure that in the short term the government could acquire all the wetlands that are so designated. We are doing everything we can to protect them, but in fact there is going to be movement, by agricultural needs and other needs from time to time, that impacts on our wetlands.

We are working together with the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr Riddell) and all other interested parties, and particularly with those people who are very willing to share some of the costs of the acquisition.

I would be very interested in examining the specific case that the member talks about and reporting back to him on what we might be able to do on that one.

**Mr Sterling:** We have heard in two answers now that the minister's heart is in the right place. What I am asking him is whether or not he is willing to take some action.

Evidently this developer has filled in these wetlands but now is seeking a zoning change from the township in order to build the golf course where he has filled in. Since the minister's own official has been quoted as saying that this is only the tip of the iceberg in the Constance Creek area and that other development will take place, I want the minister to tell the people who are concerned about the preservation of class 1 and 2 wetlands, let alone the other class, what is he willing to do in real action? Is he really willing to do something?

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** It is very obvious that the member was not listening when I told him that we have taken considerable action. We have put considerable taxpayers' money into programs to buy, to acquire wetlands. We are also designating important areas that have to be protected. We are working with groups that come forward with funding to help us acquire these wetlands. We are in fact very much involved.

The member is questioning a specific area. I have told him that I am prepared to look at that specific area, but I shall not accept the comment he is making that we are not doing something

about acquiring wetlands, because we are doing that very thing, and in huge numbers. We are acquiring wetlands; that is the action.

#### TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

**Mr Cousens:** I have a question for the Minister of Transportation in regard to a subject on which I have risen in this House on a number of occasions, a question that is on the minds of thousands of people in Metropolitan Toronto and the greater Toronto area, where they feel there is a crisis now in transportation.

The minister will be aware, I am sure, of a series of articles that have recently appeared in one of the Toronto papers, indicating that it has reached a crisis situation. When is the minister going to reveal his master plan for transportation in Metro and the greater Toronto area?

**Hon Mr Fulton:** I appreciate my friend's question. He will be aware that last 24 or 25 May we announced Transportation Directions for the Greater Toronto Area, wherein we outlined through a very lengthy consultative process with Metro and the other three regions, involving all of the transit operations and GO Transit as well, quite a number of initiatives that we were embarking upon. Many of them are under construction and many of which will be under construction, flowing from that document. I would be happy to share some of those projects with my colleague.

**Mr Cousens:** The minister does confirm that we have had numerous studies on what really needs to be done with transportation. He did have Transportation Directions for the Greater Toronto Area; he has had Network 2011. Now he has reported another study on which he has spent something like \$800,000 to see what steps should be taken immediately to resolve the transportation crisis in Metro Toronto.

It is obvious that the need to solve this crisis has been identified. When can the people in Metro and the greater Toronto area expect some action? Studies are an excuse for inaction. When are we going to get specific action to solve this crisis?

**Hon Mr Fulton:** I would remind my friend the member for Markham of the number of projects that are currently under construction in the four regions: Rutherford-16th Avenue in the region of York; White's Road in Durham; Finch Avenue in northwest Toronto, and Eglinton Avenue in Peel. We opened, for Ministry of Revenue service, the GO train extension to Whitby last December. We have announced many service improvements with respect to the Richmond Hill line, the

Milton line, added capacities on the east and west Lakeshore lines, added trains, new stations and new parking lots.

We started Highway 407 in July 1987, as the member is aware. We have an ongoing project with Highway 404. We are working closely with the region of Durham on Steeles Avenue-Taunton Road, a major east-west connection planned to start next year. We are working, as I mentioned, on Highway 407, on Highway 410 and on continued expansions on Highway 401. I think that is a pretty good start in one year.

**Mr Cousens:** We are dealing with an issue that is far greater than the projects the minister has just reviewed, especially when we realize that provincial road subsidies have been frozen at the 1988 levels despite the fact that traffic in Metro Toronto, with its ageing roads, is growing by about four per cent a year and yet the government has frozen it.

The Ministry of Transportation got roughly one third of the provincial budget back in 1955. Now it gets about one twentieth. Today it might be even one twenty-fifth. Who knows? During the past 25 years, vehicle registration in the province has risen by 72 per cent and highway use by 53 per cent. At the same time, the portion of the budget going to the Ministry of Transportation has been trimmed from 13.5 per cent to just over 5 per cent.

**The Speaker:** And the question?

**Mr Cousens:** These are common facts. These are the problems. Everyone knows the problems, except the minister—

**The Speaker:** All right. Thank you.

**Hon Mr Fulton:** I think the number of projects that are under way in actual physical construction and those that are in the planning stages are a pretty good indication of this ministry's and this government's recognition of some of the issues.

If the member wants to compare dollars, he should compare apples with apples: the share of the budget in a day when things like the environment, skills development and colleges and universities were not even considered by the previous government.

I would recall to the member that in 1972 a grand master plan was put forward by one of my predecessors, and the member's colleague, which was subsequently abandoned. I would remind the member of the cancellation of the GO advanced light rail transit system in 1985 before we took office. His government cancelled that

with no follow-up on any single expansion in this province.

1400

### DEVELOPMENTALLY HANDICAPPED

**Mr Allen:** I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services with respect to the special services at home program for developmentally handicapped children, which serves some 5,500 children across this province.

Last year, the minister will remember, his ministry reduced the services per family available to the families involved. This year, it appears there is a policy paper circulating in his ministry, dated 11 January 1989, under the heading "Program Mandate Transition," which is to be phased in by September and which proposes to divert half the dollars now going to support services for families to a ministry agency that would advise how to find resources in the community rather than get them from his ministry.

Will the minister tell us whether this drastic shift in policy is in fact the direction he is going in, and if not, what his plans are for the special services at home program?

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** I believe that the honourable member knows that there has been a significant expansion of that program, from serving 3,000 families to close to 8,000, and a budget of about \$4 million to \$5 million, up to around about \$14 or \$15 million, I think. So it is not really appropriate to say that we have not been enhancing the program.

With respect to his question, we are looking at a number of ways in which we can more effectively use the resources that are available. What he described is certainly being looked at. I would not say to him, however, that that is what we are finally going to do.

We want to expand, as the member knows, into the field to help physically disabled children and developmentally handicapped adults as well. That is going to require even more resources, and we have to find the most effective way to use those resources for all of those groups.

**Mr Allen:** I think what we do know is that to institutionalize those same children would cost \$250 a day, or \$100 a day in a group home, as distinct from \$27 a day, the maximum expenditure his ministry allows in the special services at home program.

What the minister's proposal in this document would do is remove a whole series of support programs and equipment available to those families, reduce the hours of service dramatically

and expand by fivefold the number of his ministry-paid staff to help these poor folk run around the community trying to find where on earth they can pick up the dollars, the services, etc., to put together a package for their child.

Surely, in essence, if the minister goes in that direction, is that not a policy of abandonment, throwing the families to the limit of resources of already overstressed and financially underresourced community groups?

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** I would not agree for two reasons. First, one of the things that the families are telling us is that while we provide the resources for them to go and get the services, they are having some difficulty in accessing several different services simultaneously. They are saying, "Would you please provide us with some additional human resources to help us link together and co-ordinate that range of services?" Obviously, the families are saying, "We need that kind of help." If we are prepared to move in that direction, I think that is appropriate.

The second thing I think we have to take a look at is that if we have a sum of resources that we are prepared to allocate to this program, it seems to make more sense to us that we ask families to access other resources that are already available in the community and use our resources for those kinds of things that are not readily available. That way, instead of serving only 3,000 families, we can serve 7,000 to 8,000 families and even more. To me, that seems to make more sense.

**The Speaker:** The member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mrs Grier) wished to ask her question when the Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley) arrived. He has arrived. You might like to place your question now.

### PROPOSED BUILDING SITE

**Mrs Grier:** Several months ago, I asked the Minister of the Environment to designate under the Environmental Assessment Act an area of the waterfront in my riding where massive high-rise development and extensive lake filling to create roads and parks are planned.

The minister referred my request to the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee for its recommendation. Last November, the committee recommended to the minister:

"The current approvals process does not ensure that environmental impacts associated with lake-fill quality and design will be adequately addressed. These inadequacies should be addressed through the application of the Environmental Assessment Act to shoreline redevelopment activities."

Can the minister explain why he rejected the advice of that committee and has refused to designate the shoreline under the Environmental Assessment Act?

**Hon Mr Bradley:** The fact is that the member did raise this as a matter of interest in her constituency. There were a lot of people within her constituency and within her municipality who had views to express on this particular subject. We took into consideration all of the information which was provided, including that of the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee, and a number of departments of government were made aware of the specific concerns members such as the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore and others had expressed.

As a result, we have developed a mechanism, with the agreement of the municipality, whereby we will be addressing the environmental issues that are there. We hope the plan which is ultimately developed will take into account the kind of environmental concerns the member has mentioned.

I certainly congratulate the environmental assessment committee and the member herself and others who indicated certain things that should be done to ensure that the development is in keeping with the area and that it is an environmentally desirable development. That is what we have attempted to do through the mechanism we have developed.

**Mrs Grier:** I am surprised that the minister can keep a straight face as he gives that answer. He knows perfectly well that the mechanism he has devised, an environmental management master plan, is something that nobody has ever heard of before, for which there are no established criteria and, more particularly, no process by which there can be any public participation in the review of the environmental concerns.

The issue has much broader ramifications than merely for my own riding. It concerns extensive quantities of lake fill, and as recently as last week the city council of Toronto recommended that the minister undertake environmental assessments of lake-fill programs everywhere in Ontario.

Can this minister, who received such glowing testimonials from his colleagues as recently as last week, explain—

[Applause]

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mrs Grier:** He needs all the testimonials he can get from his friends, because he is not getting many from the public.

Can the minister explain why, in this very important situation on the waterfront of Metropolitan Toronto, where the sediments are as contaminated as anywhere on the Great Lakes, he has refused to designate this area under the Environmental Assessment Act?

**Hon Mr Bradley:** While the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore represents one of the opinions expressed in this matter, it is not the only opinion which has been expressed. I think she would concede that.

**Mr Reville:** The developer had a stronger one, eh?

**Hon Mr Bradley:** Of course, being a former municipal councillor, the member for Riverdale will know that the municipal council itself has in fact strongly recommended this particular plan.

When we have the locally elected council indicating that it is prepared to co-operate in whatever way the provincial government deems appropriate in terms of declaring a provincial interest, then I think we have made some significant progress. We have ensured that the redevelopment will include advanced environmental measures, and I think the member would agree that that is important: such things as storm water runoff, which I know she is extremely interested in, storm sewers, better infrastructures along these than exist anywhere in Ontario—

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mrs Grier:** The minister is quite right. There certainly were a number of opposing opinions about whether the area should be designated. The city did not want to designate it and neither did the major developer in the area, which happens to be Camrost Developments Ltd, a corporation of which one Marco Muzzo is the vice-president and a corporation that gave over \$100,000 to the Liberal Party in the last provincial election.

Can the minister tell the House whether he was aware of the involvement of Camrost? Did he meet or listen to the representations of Camrost? Why has he chosen to protect the developers over the environment?

1410

**Hon Mr Bradley:** I understand the member's concern about this, and she has been consistent along these lines for some time; she has certainly been that. I understand that she knows her riding and represents a certain point of view in there and I accept that. But the suggestions she has made are really without any foundation. Really, we worked hard with all of the departments of government to make this a quality development in terms of the environment. It is not as though

the local municipality is not an elected group. It is an elected group and it does represent a number of people in that area.

I know that when it suits certain members of the opposition from time to time, they invoke the viewpoints of the local municipality and say: "Why are you not listening to the local municipality? You people are being arrogant and why do you not give some autonomy?" Then when it does not suit the purpose of some members of the Legislature, they say, "Of course, you should be ignoring the local municipality and doing what you see fit."

We have built in more environmental components to this particular development than any that I can think of in Ontario.

#### SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

**Mr Villeneuve:** To the Minister of Skills Development: The minister might be aware that parts of eastern Ontario have a youth unemployment rate of well over 13 per cent. This happens to be Tourism Awareness Week. Many eastern Ontario businesses that will not be able to hire young people are in exactly that business.

We have letters from Pembroke Heritage Inn, from the Deep River area, from Timberland campground in Renfrew, from Nangor resort in Westmeath, the Mayflower in Barry's Bay and the Whispering Pines resort near Eganville.

Agriculture anticipates an 18 per cent reduction in net income. Farmers used the program extensively. We have letters and calls from employers such as Cameron Woodworking in Green Valley and Dundas Power Line in Chesterville. They all say they will not be able to hire students as before.

How can the minister and his officials have been so insensitive as to not have included rural eastern Ontario along with the north for continued support?

**Hon Mr Curling:** The honourable member makes reference to our Ontario summer employment program. That program was designed to create summer jobs and employment opportunities for youth by a wage subsidy to employers.

We have found that the unemployment rate has dropped considerably and the economy has improved considerably. We have found that employers are concerned that they are unable to get skilled labour. Therefore, they can employ those individuals without any subsidy at all. Hence, we have directed our program to the northern areas, where unemployment is much higher for young people.

**Mr Villeneuve:** Since the 1985-86 fiscal year administrative costs in his ministry have soared by 220 per cent: the second highest in this entire fast-spending government. It is now spending \$9,930,000 a year more on administration only and the ministry has cut back drastically on summer employment programs. A small portion of this great administration cost would have been more than enough to include the high unemployment areas of rural eastern Ontario. When does the minister intend to make the unemployed youth in eastern Ontario a higher priority than his own administration and bureaucracy?

**Hon Mr Curling:** If I may emphasize to the honourable member, we are a skills creation ministry. We are not a job creation ministry. We want to improve the skills of our young people. We have, as I said, reduced the programs where we have seen that the unemployment rate is lower and concentrated our Ontario summer employment program in areas where the unemployment is much higher: in the north.

We have seen our environmental youth program expanded to take a lot of students in to the relevant jobs where they can improve their skills. I would encourage the member to tell the employers within his area that they can employ those young people. They do not need a subsidy because they are the same individuals who are complaining to me they are unable to get people to work. Those young people can be used in those jobs.

#### ST CATHARINES GENERAL

**Mr Dietsch:** I have a question for the Minister of Health. In attempting to remain within its budget, I am informed that the St Catharines General hospital plans to close 54 of its beds for a period of months beginning this summer. Is the Minister of Health aware of the hospital's plans to close these beds and have they been approved by her ministry?

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** I want to thank the member for giving me notice of this question and acknowledge his interest in this subject.

It is my understanding, based on the information I have, that a plan has been developed by the hospital administration but still must be approved by the board of directors. I believe the board is meeting later this week to consider the plan.

I would say to the member that if and when it is formally approved by the hospital, ministry staff will be working with the hospital to ensure that any bed closures do not have a negative impact on the availability of services in his community.

He should note it is also standard practice for hospitals to close beds during summer months because of reduced demands for elective surgery and other elective procedures. This provides an opportunity as well for a hospital to do renovations, cleaning and maintenance and enables hospital staff to organize their vacation time.

**Mr Dietsch:** Assuming that the hospital goes ahead with its plans, can the minister tell me how these bed closures are likely to affect the availability of health care services in my area for those residents?

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** As the member knows and as I have stated a number of times in this House, we focus on services. The number of beds really is not a benchmark for the quality or service level. Because of new technology, services can be provided in alternative ways. He knows that these advances in technology allow services to be provided, which formerly could be provided only on an inpatient basis, as outpatient, ambulatory or in-the-community kinds of clinics.

I want to tell him that we work with the hospitals to ensure that the service needs within the community are met. As he knows, we expect hospitals to work with other hospitals in the region and to work co-operatively to avoid unnecessary duplication of services as well as respond to changing community needs. We seek advice as well from the district health councils, which have an important role to play in the communities in ensuring and assisting this kind of co-operative planning.

#### RENT REGULATION

**Mr Breaugh:** I have a question for the Minister of Housing. The rent review decisions are now beginning to be finalized on the Cadillac Fairview buildings in the west end of Toronto in the area known as High Park. All of these buildings were subject to the most publicized case of speculation in real estate, I think, in Canadian history. Can the minister explain why tenants in the High Park area are now going to be looking at double-digit rent increases for the foreseeable future? Why should these tenants pay the price for speculation in these buildings?

**Hon Ms Hošek:** As the member opposite knows, the rent review legislation that we have is balanced between the concerns of tenants and the concerns of landlords. In the case he is talking about, the rent review system has decided that the requirements of the law are to pay a rent increase that takes account of capital expenses and financial expenses.

Let me tell him about one of the people who was involved in the creation of the legislation which we now have admitted, though not perfect, was much fairer than the law before. What she said was, "Tenants who've been jerked around by landlords won't be jerked around any more, but people who've had it nice and easy paying four to six per cent have to pay a little more."

That was the view of one of the tenant representatives on the group that helped to draft the legislation and I think this particular decision fits into that view.

**Mr Breaugh:** There are 2,645 tenant families in these buildings who might disagree with that one tenant.

Can the minister explain why the landlords asked for 9.5 per cent and the rent review board gave them in excess of 12 per cent? It is one thing to suggest that the government is trying to be fair to the landlords, but it is giving them more than they are asking for. How can the minister rationalize that kind of stupidity in law in Ontario?

1420

**Hon Ms Hošek:** The member opposite is very familiar with this legislation and knows that it is very tight, has many very specific regulations and that the decisions are made on the basis of the fulfilling of those regulations and on the basis of the facts that are gathered. Most people do not get rent increases higher than they asked for, but in some cases this happens because the data, the information used to process the decision reveals that is the right decision to make.

#### CAPITAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS

**Mrs Cunningham:** My question is to the Minister of Education. In April, the minister announced that the London and Middlesex County Roman Catholic Separate School Board would be receiving \$16 million in capital grants, money the board desperately needs to solve the serious overcrowding problem at John Paul II High School. We are now aware that the number looks more like \$6 million; the other \$10 million will not be handed over until 1992. If true, this will delay school construction until 1993. By 1992, this school will need at least 40 more portables. Last year, he gave us the site without the school.

**The Speaker:** Question.

**Mrs Cunningham:** This year, he is giving us the school without the funding. What kind of planning is this?

**Hon Mr Ward:** The short answer to her question is that in my view it is very effective planning indeed. The member will know we have increased significantly the amount of capital we are making available to boards of education. We have moved from a process and a program that used to, I believe, see the influx of about \$60 million annually in funding to support school boards, in terms of their accommodation needs, to an annual, four-year program of \$300 million a year. This program will generate nearly \$2 billion worth of construction in this province.

The member knows full well that we have a responsibility to ensure that the flow of those funds is done in an effective and responsible fashion. That board did receive an allocation for a site acquisition last year. As a matter of fact, that money was preflowed one year in advance. She should know that. She should know full well as a former trustee that the board has significant work to do in terms of getting a program approval and a design approval. I expect they would proceed on that basis, and can proceed with some certainty, knowing that the kind of assistance they need is indeed forthcoming from this government.

**The Speaker:** Supplementary.

**Mrs Cunningham:** The practice in this province used to be when somebody read the newspaper and knew he was getting a school, he knew he was getting a school next year. Now the minister is making the announcement and it may be two or three years down the road. It is a practice that is not acceptable to the public. It is misleading and unfair to schools.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. Will the member place the supplementary?

**Mrs Cunningham:** It used to be in this province that when the public heard it was getting a high school, it got it immediately.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. I remind the member for London North I recognized her to ask a supplementary, not to repeat her earlier comments.

**Mrs Cunningham:** We now have a school with 20 portables, never to be seen in London before, ever. There are 20 portables, 40 down the road. I am going to ask a point-blank question. The minister has delayed the process by one year. Would he seriously reconsider the allocations of funds so that we can start building and get kids in that school before 1994? That is disgusting.

**Hon Mr Ward:** I very much want to set the member straight, because first of all the practice used to be that if you needed a school in this province you were going to have to pay for it out of local taxes, because there was no support for the capital needs of boards throughout Ontario. It used to be the practice in this province that there was a very niggardly one-year allocation that left boards to speculate as to whether or not they were going to be successful in their requests for future support of their capital projects.

The member knows full well that trustees throughout this province and boards across this province have been asking for years for an extended period of allocations, for a three- or four-year program so that they could plan. They could know with some certainty whether they were going to have to meet those needs out of local property taxes or whether that support was going to be forthcoming. We have provided that support. We have done it in a fiscally responsible fashion to the benefit of those students in London, and we will continue to proceed in that manner.

**Mrs Cunningham:** Forty portables, and this blubbering is what we have to listen to. You should be ashamed of yourself.

**Hon Mr Scott:** When Cam Jackson is away, you sure come on fast; you really shine, Dianne. You should be Education critic, for heaven's sake.

**The Speaker:** Perhaps, once again, this is the appropriate time to remind members that they agreed with certain standing orders in this House. I would remind them of standing order 24(b). I appreciate some memories are not the best, but that standing order does say that any member who is recognized has the right to speak without any other member interrupting.

#### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr Cleary:** My question is to the Treasurer. It is with respect to the issue of teachers' pensions. Some of the teacher constituents in my riding have expressed concern that the deficit in the current plan is due, at least in part, to the fact that the government has not been contributing its share to the teachers' superannuation fund. Can the Treasurer please inform the House as to whether or not this is true, that the government's contributions to the fund have been made to match the teachers' contributions?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I can assure the honourable members that the taxpayers, through the Treasury, have met their commitments, not just in my time in Treasury but going back many years. As a

matter of fact, it has only been in the past three years that there has been any measurable surplus. During the years when there were deficits, the taxpayers, through the guarantee of these pension funds, have had to make up hundreds of millions of dollars in extra payments in support of the teachers' pension, which was the responsibility undertaken. I am very proud to be able to report that to the honourable member.

**Mr Cleary:** If that is the case, and the deficit still exists, can the Treasurer assure my constituents that the pension contributions from both plan members and the government have received a fair rate of return?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I can certainly assure the honourable member that during my tenure in Treasury, all of the contributions from the teachers, by law, are taken into the Treasury and, as honourable members know, have been used for basic finance. In return, the interest payments to the teachers have been based on a formula which at the present time pays 11.03 per cent on 20-year investments. I would indicate that there is no other place in the province where that sort of return can be earned.

The honourable member will know that according to the information that I have provided to the Legislature, it is our hope that the teachers' contributions will be put out into marketable securities. I believe that is extremely appropriate, and the funding contributions in the future will be based on a return from that innovation.

The other side of that is that for any funding needs we require in the future, we will be able to go to the open market. It is our projection that the cost of that funding will be less than we pay now to the teachers.

1430

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Miss Martel:** I have a question to the Minister of Labour concerning Bill 162 and deeming. Here is the story of Joanne D'Incognito. Joanne was injured on 22 April 1987, while working as a machine operator at Carlton Cards. At that time, she was making \$323 a week. Her doctor advised her she was unable to return to work as a machine operator, but the Workers' Compensation Board refused to provide any rehabilitation.

In March 1989, she was granted a 10 per cent pension equalling \$110 a month. She applied to the Workers' Compensation Board for benefits to make up her lost wages and was sent for a vocational assessment. She was told she was capable of being a junior office clerk or able to work on an electrical assembly line and could not

get benefits because she could make more than before.

**The Speaker:** Question?

**Miss Martel:** I want to ask the minister why he has done absolutely nothing to stop the current practice of deeming at the Workers' Compensation Board.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** I think the member for Sudbury East must like this question, because it is very much like the one she asked earlier this week, if memory serves me, and last week as well. I do not want to burden the House or Hansard with a repetitive answer to the question, so I am going to try to take a different tack.

I want to point out to the member that there would be nothing I could say in this House, nor anything I could say in any other context, that could convince her that the system proposed in Bill 162 is dramatically different from the situation we have today. Her position is that she opposes the bill under any circumstances. I would invite her once again, though, to consider the bill and, if she chooses, to make amendments thereto during clause-by-clause.

The member's example put forward in this House, I think, is some of the best evidence we could present here to move forward on Bill 162 and get rid of the system she herself acknowledges is not working in this province at this time.

**Miss Martel:** I want to point out to the Minister of Labour that I oppose this bill for the very reason that this type of practice is institutionalized in this bill. The system is grossly unfair and it will continue.

Perhaps the minister was not aware that during the course of the hearings on Bill 162, we had evidence from people from Saskatchewan, who came before the committee and told us how the system is working there—a system, I might add, which is the same as that being proposed here in Ontario.

The review committee said that the system was not working. The current practice of deeming in Saskatchewan continued and in fact the former Deputy Minister of Labour, Bob Sass, when contacted by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, said that in retrospect, he would not tout this dual system as an advance in any way, shape or form.

I want to ask the minister why is he importing into this province a system which has not worked well, nor at all in fact, in Saskatchewan.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** I think one of the major problems with the arguments that have been put forth on this subject by the member for Sudbury

East is that she is terribly selective with her evidence.

Let me just remind her that in the province of Saskatchewan, a tripartite committee made up of labour, management and government did a thorough review of the system and issued a report that said the dual award system was fundamentally sound. The changes they recommended to their system—and I remind the member that labour, government and management were the parties to this report—are very similar to the system that is currently being proposed in this province. When we pass this bill, we will be in a position in this province, that we can finally respond to the real needs of injured workers in this province without spending ourselves to the poorhouse.

### TELEPHONE SERVICE

**Mrs Marland:** My question is to the Minister of Culture and Communications. Ralph McMullen is a seasonal resident of Lake Temagami, and he has been trying for 15 years to have a telephone service installed for about 107 residents of the area, for obvious safety and emergency reasons. The Ontario Northland Transportation Commission continues to discriminate against seasonal residents, by not providing reasonably priced telephone service within the serviced area, the same as it provides to permanent residents and a select group of seasonal residents. When can these residents expect some telephone service, a right given to them under the provincial Telephone Act?

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** I am very pleased to see the member's interest in the plight of the cottagers. She is right that the situation has been a long-standing one. I am pleased to say, however, that the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission, by virtue of its telecommunications activities, is working with the Ministry of Northern Development and my ministry to ensure that the problems of providing extended service to remote and island locations is dealt with in the near future.

I think the member has highlighted some of the problems. When you have a cottage population, you have all sorts of difficulties with technical equipment and costs. None the less, I think we owe it to ourselves to see that everyone is provided with accessible telephone service. I am hopeful that we are nearing a resolution in that matter.

**Mrs Marland:** The Ombudsman's office has been involved with this case for some time now. Last year, the Ombudsman reported that the

current policy of ONTC, "unreasonably discriminated against seasonal residents." The ONTC went as far as to agree with the Ombudsman's finding and promised some action. The ONTC has a monopoly on phone service in the Temagami area. Accordingly, it has the responsibility to provide service where needed.

Apparently the ONTC people have agreed to meet with these residents in September when, of course, being seasonal residents, they are not going to be there. I would like to know whether, through her office, she could agree to arrange those meetings in August and when Mr McMullen and these others can expect to have the needed telephone service.

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** I think again that the member raises some practical blockages that are all too evident for people who live in the north. I will certainly do my best to ensure that the meetings she is talking about take place during the time the cottagers are there.

Members of the House should understand that the Ombudsman's office became involved because of the access question and has been able to work in a very diligent fashion with the Ministry of Northern Development, ONTC and also our ministry. I am confident that after so many years, we will be able to resolve the question. The issue is in making sure that the kind of technical equipment we put in and the capital costs speak to the needs not only of the cottagers, but also of the entire lake area. But I will do as she suggests and see if we can speed up the meeting so that people concerned can attend.

### ALTERNATIVE FUELS IN AGRICULTURE

**Mr McGuigan:** The federal budget announced on 26 and 27 April has shifted and reduced its financial responsibilities to Canadian and Ontario farmers. One initiative of the federal budget states that at the end of this year, rebates on excise tax on gasoline and diesel fuels for primary producers will expire. As well, the rebate on sales tax on farm-related purchases will only be extended until the end of 1990.

I ask the Minister of Agriculture and Food what effects this federal budget initiative will have on Ontario farmers who must compete globally, especially with United States farmers who have cheap fuel.

**Hon Mr Riddell:** My colleague is absolutely correct in suggesting that the federal government has certainly shifted its responsibilities and reduced its responsibilities, so much so that there is growing uncertainty about the future role of the federal government in Canadian agriculture.

By eliminating the rebate on the excise tax on gasoline and diesel fuel, Ontario farmers could feel the direct impact in the amount of at least \$6 million in increased fuel costs. That is a very conservative estimate. I think the figure would be closer to \$10 million. This increased production cost is certainly going to affect those farmers who are in a very tight financial situation.

It is interesting that in this brave new world of free trade, the United States competition has much lower fuel costs than farmers do in this province, and instead of levelling the playing field, as the federal government said it wanted to do, it has certainly tilted the field in favour of the American farmer.

1440

**Mr McGuigan:** Would the minister review with his cabinet colleagues, especially the Minister of Energy (Mr Wong), the possibility of assisting farmers to make informed decisions on using alternative fuels, such as natural gas, for running irrigation pumps, other stationary engines and other high-energy-consuming farm equipment? They should look too at the possibility of using natural gas even in mobile equipment. Would the minister look at that?

**Hon Mr Riddell:** The Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food certainly have had and will continue to have an excellent relationship which will benefit farmers in this province. The Guelph Agriculture Centre, for example, was a direct result of this relationship, and Energy's main emphasis is on the conservation and the efficient use of energy in the production of food in Ontario.

But as my colleague has indicated, there are other alternatives, there are uses for alternative fuels in agriculture. For the uses that he has indicated, I must tell the honourable member, natural gas and propane receive a tax-free benefit at the present time. I encourage producers to apply for the fuel tax exemption, through the Ministry of Revenue, for fuel used in farm equipment other than motor vehicles.

#### NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES

**Mr Pouliot:** To the Minister of Health: Surely the minister—and we raise this on a weekly basis—will be appreciative of the critical and ongoing shortage of the essential services provided in that special part of Ontario. Yes, northern Ontario. Over a period of years her ministry, in conjunction with the Ministry of Northern Development, has created myriad incentives to attract and retain family doctors up north.

We have just contacted the underserved area program for Ontario, and the people there tell us the pool is dry. When will the minister give to foreign doctors who are qualified people the chance to provide that essential service to fill the gap, so that the people of northern Ontario can at long last have the kind of family practice the minister and indeed most of her colleagues take for granted?

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** I am aware of the interest of my friend the member for Lake Nipigon in this issue, but we have a fundamental policy disagreement on it. He knows, for example, that we believe there is an adequate total supply of physicians in this province. We do have some distributional problems and some areas of specific specialty needs.

He knows as well that we have some five medical schools which train for Ontario needs and that we graduate approximately 600 physicians in this province. He knows that the underserved area program has placed in northern Ontario some 268 general practitioners who are continuing to practise up there, and at the present time there are some 86 specialists plus another 107 general practitioners under that program.

The policy he is espousing would force us away from the policy initiative we believe is so important, the principle that Ontario students should have an opportunity to go to Ontario medical schools to become doctors. The policy he is recommending—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. Perhaps the members could continue this discussion during estimates or some other time. That completes the allotted time for oral questions and responses.

#### PETITIONS

##### HOME CARE

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** I thought, for old times' sake, we should do a couple of hours of petitions this afternoon.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We support the expansion of home care and visiting nurses' services as the most cost-efficient mode of health care delivery. We therefore want our government to adequately fund the Victorian Order of Nurses."

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Miss Martel:** I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario which reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act;

"Because Bill 162 contains the most significant changes to the Ontario system of workers' compensation contemplated for many years, and yet the Minister of Labour, as reported in the media, wanted the bill passed and implemented by the end of 1988—in other words, without an adequate process for public consultation, debate and discussion; and

"Because Bill 162 represents an attack on injured workers and their families and all of those people who have fought over the years to achieve fairness and justice for injured workers and their families; and

"Because Bill 162 will eliminate the current lifetime pension for lifetime disability and replace it with a dual award system combining a lump sum and wage-loss award that has been rejected by injured workers, their advocates, community legal workers and lawyers working on their behalf and by the trade union movement since it was first proposed for implementation in Ontario by the 1980 Weiler report and the Conservative government's 1981 white paper; and

"Because Bill 162 virtually ignores the recommendations of the Majesky-Minna task force report on vocational rehabilitation that was submitted to the Minister of Labour and suppressed by the Liberal government until April 1988; and

"Because Bill 162 gives legislative form to the unacceptable and reactionary policy of restricting access to supplement awards announced by the Workers' Compensation Board in 1987; and

"Because Bill 162 restricts an injured worker's right to appeal decisions within the adjudication process and elsewhere, notably the percentage 'impairment rating' and reinstatement; and

"Because throughout Bill 162, injured workers are made subject to increased discretionary power at the hands of the Workers' Compensation Board, and made subject to ever more intrusive, invasive and demeaning assaults on their dignity, their privacy and their right to fair and just treatment."

This is signed by 19 members of the Simcoe County Injured Workers' Association. I agree

with them entirely and I have affixed my signature to it.

**The Speaker:** Perhaps this would be the appropriate time to once again advise the member for Sudbury East and, I am sure, all members that when presenting petitions, it is certainly within order to present the material allegations made by their constituents or people of Ontario. It is not necessary to give all the reasons why.

## AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

**Mrs Cunningham:** I have a petition containing approximately 128 signatures from seniors in London.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of the province of Ontario as follows;

"We, concerned senior citizens of London, are expressing our concern over increases in auto insurance. We feel that many seniors would not be able to afford a drastic increase in car insurance, as their only source of income is through their pensions."

I have affixed my name to this and will table it with the Clerk.

## LOTTERY PROFITS

**Mr Adams:** I have a petition from people associated with the Eastern Ontario Drama League, La Guilde dramatique de l'est de l'Ontario. It is properly addressed and it begins:

"Whereas the proposed Bill 119, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act, does not guarantee any level of allocation to the arts in a particular year, therefore impeding planning and development;

"Whereas Bill 119 proposes to transfer to the operation of hospitals unused moneys which were actually designated under the current act still in effect for fitness, sport, recreation and culture; and

"Whereas Bill 119 will create uncertainty and instability which will threaten the very existence of many arts organizations;

"Therefore we oppose the Treasurer of Ontario in the proposed legislation, Bill 119."

1450

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Mr Hampton:** I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act, Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1980, chapter 539, as amended by the Statutes of Ontario, 1981, chapter 30; Statutes of Ontario, 1982, chapter 61; Statutes of Ontario, 1983, chapter 45; Statutes of Ontario, 1984, chapter 38; Statutes of Ontario, 1984, chapter 58; Statutes of Ontario, 1985, chapter 3; Statutes of Ontario, 1985, chapter 17; and Statutes of Ontario, 1986, chapter 64, section 69,

"Because Bill 162 contains the most significant changes to the Ontario system of workers' compensation contemplated for many years, and yet the Minister of Labour, as reported in the media, wants the bill passed and implemented by the end of 1988—in other words, without an adequate process for public consultation, debate and discussion; and

"Because Bill 162 represents an attack on injured workers and their families and all of those people who have fought over the years to achieve fairness and justice for injured workers and their families; and

"Because Bill 162 will eliminate the current lifetime pension for lifetime disability and replace it with a dual award system combining a lump sum and actual wage-loss award benefits that has been rejected by injured workers, their advocacy groups, community legal workers and lawyers working on their behalf and by the trade union movement since it was first proposed for implementation in Ontario by the 1980 Weiler report and the Conservative government's 1981 white paper; and

"Because Bill 162 virtually ignores the devastating critique and recommendations of the Majesky-Minna task force report on vocational rehabilitation that was submitted to the Minister of Labour and suppressed by the Liberal government until April 1988; and

"Because Bill 162 gives legislative form to the unacceptable and reactionary policy of restricting access to supplement awards announced by the Workers' Compensation Board in 1987; and

"Because Bill 162 restricts an injured worker's right to appeal decisions within the adjudication process and elsewhere, notably the percentage 'impairment rating' and reinstatement; and

"Because throughout Bill 162, injured workers are made subject to increased discretionary power at the hands of the Workers' Compensation Board functionaries, and made subject to ever more intrusive, invasive and demeaning

assaults on their dignity, their privacy and their right to fair and just treatment."

This petition has been signed by eight individuals of the Simcoe County Injured Workers' Association. I have affixed my signature to it, because I agree with it.

**The Speaker:** I gather the member enjoys reading and I would suggest he read standing order 31.

#### LAND TRANSFER TAX

**Mr Runciman:** I have read the standing order and I have a petition.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government of Premier David Peterson to stop punishing people who contribute to the economy! David Peterson, don't even think of raising the land transfer tax again!"

These petition cards have been collected by the Kingston and Area Real Estate Association. It has my support and signature.

#### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mrs LeBourdais:** I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to 31 May 1982 have their pensions recalculated on the best five years, rather than at the present seven or ten years.

"This proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

I have affixed my signature.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Hon Mr Conway:** As members will know from a statement I read last week, it is the intention of the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) to read his budget address at four o'clock this afternoon. That is the order of business for today following routine proceedings, so I now seek unanimous consent to postpone this afternoon's proceeding until four o'clock, at which time the Treasurer will return and read the budget address.

**The Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent that the House have a short recess until 4 pm?

Agreed to.

The House recessed at 1455.

1600

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### BUDGET RESOLUTION

Hon R. F. Nixon moved, seconded by Hon Mr Peterson, that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

**The Speaker:** As has been the custom in the past, I hope the House will allow the pages to distribute copies of the budget to the members before the speech begins.

**An hon member:** How many pages?

**The Speaker:** There are 90.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I have my speech anyway. While the pages are distributing copies of the budget, I thought it would be appropriate if I expressed to the members of the House my appreciation of the staff at the Treasury. The Deputy Treasurer, Mary Mogford, is known to all members, having served in many capacities in government, most recently before coming to Treasury as Deputy Minister of Natural Resources. Her assistance in this connection in the preparation of the budget has been invaluable.

I would like to name one other person, and that is Michael Gourley, who is the assistant deputy minister in charge of the budget. He and his staff have worked very effectively. He has been in charge of confidentiality, and perhaps it is in that respect that he deserves the highest recommendation.

### BUDGET STATEMENT

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Ontario's 1989 budget is an expression of the government's determination to see its commitments met and its agenda for reform implemented.

Each of my previous budgets included substantial improvements to Ontario's fiscal position. Continuing that policy, this budget produces the largest operating surplus in Ontario's history, \$2.6 billion.

By way of explanation, Mr Speaker, I know you are aware that this simply means that the operation of the government is fully covered by our tax revenues. That means the day to day operation and all of our transfer payments, with the exception of capital grants. The other part of the budget is for capital construction, and these are tangible assets—university buildings, roads and bridges, environmental works. In this connection, I would say that the operating surplus of \$2.6 billion all goes towards the payment of our capital requirements.

The deficit has been cut to \$577 million, its lowest level in 15 years, and a reduction of \$911 million from last year, which was, in turn, a reduction of \$1 billion from the year previous.

The initiatives in this budget will keep Ontario competitive; launch major transportation investments; support a cleaner, healthier environment; reform Ontario's social assistance; fund innovations in education, and restructure and refinance health care. These initiatives support the reform agenda set by the government under the leadership and vision of the Premier (Mr Peterson).

For six consecutive years, real growth in Ontario has exceeded four per cent, making the current economic expansion the longest and strongest since the 1960's. In 1988, real output increased by 4.9 per cent, once again outpacing growth in the United States and Europe. Among major industrialized countries, only Japan recorded stronger growth.

In 1989, real output is expected to expand by 2.8 per cent, led by strong growth in business investment. Businesses intend to increase spending on plant and equipment by 11.7 per cent this year. Investment in the manufacturing sector will be particularly strong, with spending on machinery and equipment alone to reach \$8 billion, an 18.7 per cent increase from 1988. With higher interest rates, consumers are expected to increase their savings and slow the pace of credit expansion. Income growth will contribute to solid but more moderate growth in spending and housing, consumer goods and services. With continuing job creation, the unemployment rate will average 5.2 per cent.

Faced with increasing international competition under the free trade agreement and a stronger European economic community, Ontario must secure and support its competitive position to keep the economy growing and to maintain our quality of life.

Now completing its third year, the Premier's Council on technology has recommended measures to promote the development of new industrial processes and encourage the growth of innovative companies. This year, over \$132 million will be provided through the \$1-billion, 19-year technology fund to stimulate research, development and diffusion of new industrial technologies. Included in this amount is \$47 million in tax support available through the research and development superallowance. Over \$40 million will be allocated this year to Ontario's centres of excellence to support research of an international calibre. The university research incentive fund will be extended to

provide \$25 million over the next three years in support of joint research by universities and industry.

The council has recommended that the government encourage venture capital investment. To support the growth of small and medium-sized companies, Ontario will establish the growth ventures program. Over the next five years, this program will provide up to \$100 million in loan guarantees to venture capital companies investing in eligible businesses.

The council has also recommended that the government share risks with companies on the threshold of becoming multinationals. Risk-sharing support for emerging threshold firms will be provided, with extensive private sector involvement, under the guidance of the council.

Ontario's ability to trade and compete in a global economy will be reinforced by initiatives to strengthen exports and build marketing skills. The province will commit an additional \$10 million on a full-year basis for trade-related initiatives, including targeted marketing assistance and investment promotion in co-operation with Ontario's trade offices abroad.

#### 1610

Steps will be taken to encourage companies to plan strategically for developments in the United States and in Europe and to penetrate Pacific Rim markets. The government will also provide financial support for research and strategic policy analysis of international trade and investment issues at the University of Toronto Centre for International Studies, which will complement the Ontario Centre for International Business at York University.

Industries require a skilled workforce to take advantage of the efficiency offered by new technologies. Ontario's workers need updated skills to secure well-paying jobs and to cope in a world of technological change and industrial restructuring. There is a greater need to retrain and redeploy experienced workers as the number of young people entering the workforce declines. This budget provide additional funding of \$10 million to address these labour market needs.

Negotiations with the federal government are under way for a cost-sharing program to provide extended income support to laid-off workers over 55 years of age. Ontario is prepared to commit up to \$9 million for the first year of an agreement under the program for older worker adjustment. In the interim, the Ministry of Skills Development will extend eligibility for the Transitions program to provide retraining assistance to older workers upon notification of layoff.

The United Nations has declared next year International Year of Literacy. Ontario will increase funding for literacy programs by \$5 million for 1990, raising the province's spending on adult literacy to \$55 million.

Post-secondary educational institutions play a key role in keeping Ontario competitive. As I announced in December, the government's operating support for universities and colleges this year will increase by 7.5 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively. These commitments stand in spite of the reductions in transfers for post-secondary education announced in the federal budget.

The Ontario student assistance program will provide \$196 million this year to help students attend post-secondary institutions. This is an increase of 55 per cent since 1984-85.

During this fiscal year, \$88 million will be provided to universities for enrolment growth through the accessibility envelope. For the next fiscal year and beyond, a more permanent approach to allocating university operating grants will be introduced. It will take into account recent enrolment growth and will include funding recognition for the flow-through of these students.

The 1988 budget announced a \$440 million post-secondary capital program. The \$110 million in provincial funding for 1990-91 projects—that is, not this year but the next—will be advanced during this fiscal year.

Junior exploration companies and individual prospectors play a vital role in the future of Ontario's mining industry. In order to offset reduced federal support for mineral exploration, \$5 million will be allocated to the Ontario prospectors' assistance program, the Ontario mineral incentive program and other programs for these groups.

In addition, \$34 million will be provided in the next two years to assist Ontario's film industry, including assistance through the Ontario film investment program.

Ontario's efficient system of roads, highways and transit is essential to the economy. Spending on the transportation system has increased by more than 30 per cent since 1984-85 and totalled \$2 billion last year. However, sustained economic growth will require enriched funding to reduce transportation congestion and improve access to growing markets. The government is committing an additional \$2 billion over five years to the new transportation capital program. This program will support highway capital projects, major

municipal roads and transit projects and additional GO Transit services.

Included are improvements to northern Highways 69, 17 and 11, expansion of and accelerated construction on Highways 401, 403, 407 and 410, the Queen Elizabeth Way in the Niagara region and Highway 416 in eastern Ontario. Additional GO Transit service will be provided to Milton, Georgetown, Richmond Hill and Stouffville and service will be extended to Oshawa. A new ferry will be put in service to Pelee Island.

**Mr Wildman:** This must be the fifth time 416 has been promised.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** It takes a little time, but the money is there.

This program includes improved highway access to Mount Hope airport near Hamilton. Federal assistance will be sought in the financing of this project.

[Laughter]

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Well, they get more gas tax than we do. Why should they not pay? This government is prepared to share the cost of providing improved transit access to Pearson International Airport. Details of the project await the federal government's plan for the airport.

To complement the provincial highway improvements, the transportation capital program includes \$200 million over four years, beginning next year, for major municipal arterial roads and highway connecting links.

Provincial capital spending on municipal transit systems will increase by \$44 million, or 29 per cent, to approximately \$200 million this year. Specific projects include capacity improvements on the Yonge Street subway line, station upgrading at Yonge and Sheppard, ongoing construction of the Transitway in Ottawa-Carleton and the Harbourfront light rapid transit. Operating support for municipal transit will total \$196 million this year.

The provision of public infrastructure frequently results in substantial benefits to specific groups in Ontario. Therefore, the province is adopting a strategy by which those who benefit significantly and directly from the provision of new public infrastructure will be required to make a greater contribution to the cost of that infrastructure.

In this connection, commercial property owners in the greater Toronto area—that is, the municipalities in the regions of Halton, Durham, Peel, York and Metropolitan Toronto—realize

considerable economic benefit from provincial expenditures on infrastructure. These benefits include capital gains from land and building value increases, greater income from tenants who seek prime locations and ready access for customers, suppliers and employees who rely on an excellent transportation network.

Therefore, beginning in January 1990 owners of large commercial structures and associated parking with gross areas in excess of 200,000 square feet and all commercial parking lots and parking garages within the GTA will be required to pay a commercial concentration levy of \$1 per square foot per year. This charge will be paid semiannually and will raise \$62 million this year.

To provide additional funding for transportation projects across the province, the rate of tax on gasoline and diesel fuel will be increased immediately by one cent per litre. Effective 1 January 1990, the tax on gasoline will increase by one additional cent per litre. These and other road-related motor fuel measures will raise approximately \$140 million this fiscal year.

Passenger motor vehicle registration fees will be increased from \$54 to \$66 in southern Ontario and from \$27 to \$33 in northern Ontario. To help meet the critical transportation infrastructure needs in the greater Toronto area, these fees will be increased by a further \$24, for a total fee of \$90 for residents in the greater Toronto area. These measures will raise \$54 million in 1989-90.

This year, capital outlays by the Ministry of the Environment will increase by 40 per cent over last year, including a doubling to \$46 million of advances for provincial water and sewage projects for municipalities. Total funding provided to the Ministry of the Environment will reach \$528 million, an increase of 71 per cent since 1984-85.

To encourage leadership in the development of new technologies and industries to meet the demands of the industrial world in overcoming environmentally damaging production practices, the government will introduce a new environmental technologies program. Under the guidance of the Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy, this program will assist companies in the research and development of environmentally sound production machinery and processes. Ontario will allocate \$30 million for the environmental technologies program over the next five years.

**1620**

The province will make available \$300 million in loan guarantees under the loans for environ-

mental defence initiative. This seven-year program will provide loan guarantees to eligible businesses installing vital pollution abatement equipment.

To help businesses achieve cleaner production processes while sustaining competitiveness, the Ontario corporate income tax current cost adjustment will be extended to include pollution control equipment at a cost of \$3 million this year.

Since 1985, the Ministry of Energy has provided companies with grants to undertake research and develop energy-saving technology in their plants through the EnerSearch program. The government will commit \$3 million to extend this program.

To support the government's environmental programs, the following measures will be introduced. A tax of \$5 will be charged on the purchase of each new tire. The tire tax will help fund efforts to support recycling and environmentally sound disposal.

A tax will be levied on new, fuel-inefficient cars. This tax will increase based on a car's fuel inefficiency.

Pesticides and fertilizers will be subject to the retail sales tax. Those used in agricultural production, of course, will be exempt from this tax.

A disposal charge of five cents will be levied on the purchase of each liquor, wine or beer container for which there is no deposit or recycling system presently in place. This charge will help fund the province's waste reduction and recycling initiatives.

These measures together will yield a total of \$54 million this year.

The government has allocated \$212 million to maintain and renew Ontario's forests. Included in this figure is \$15 million representing Ontario's share of the Canada-Ontario forest resource development agreement.

In addition, pending results from efforts to negotiate an end to the federal softwood lumber export tax, Ontario will use its revenues from this tax to reinforce forest management in the province. The additional \$18 million for forest management will bring total spending to \$230 million this year, an increase of 50 per cent since 1984-85.

The fundamental principle of our health care system is to provide all Ontarians with universal access to quality health care.

Ministry of Health expenditures will total \$13.9 billion this year, an increase of 10.7 per cent. As a share of total provincial spending, the

Ministry of Health accounts for 33 per cent, up from 28 per cent a decade ago.

The Ministry of Health is concentrating its efforts on improving the quality, availability and efficiency of health services. As Treasurer, I am committed to securing adequate revenues to fund these services.

The Social Assistance Review Committee indicated that it believes the elimination of Ontario health insurance plan premiums "is essential and would greatly improve access to health care, particularly preventive health care, for many low-income people." Premiums have been frozen since 1985 and premium assistance has been enriched annually. Premium revenue has fallen below 13 per cent of the total cost of health care.

Therefore, it is a special pleasure for me to announce to the House that OHIP premiums will be eliminated as of 1 January 1990.

Naturally, such good news is accompanied by certain tax adjustments.

The good news first. This is a \$1-billion benefit to individuals and families in 1990. This is not a smoke and mirrors benefit. They will realize \$550 million in premium savings—for each family currently paying premiums, this amounts to a saving of \$714 a year—and \$450 million in personal income tax reductions from the elimination of personal income tax on employees' taxable benefits, which includes every person sitting in these seats.

Responsible budgeting requires that the financing of health care be on a solid foundation. The federal government has weakened that foundation by reducing its support for established programs financing by a total of approximately \$3 billion over the past three years.

A new employer health levy will therefore be introduced 1 January 1990. The new charge will be 1.95 per cent of payroll. In recognition of their unique circumstances, employers with small payrolls will be given the advantage of a special half-rate levy. This measure will ensure that all employers contribute a share of the financing of health care, a more reasonable approach than the current patchwork that has many employers paying all premiums for their employees and others contributing nothing at all.

Historically, the funding for health care has been shared by people and business. Each realizes benefits from Ontario's universal health care system. To maintain balance in the funding of health care, the rate of personal income tax will be increased by one percentage point beginning 1 January 1990.

At the same time, an additional 50,000 people will benefit from an enrichment to the Ontario tax reduction program. This means that in total, 365,000 low-income individuals who are liable for basic federal personal income tax will pay no Ontario personal income tax and 195,000 others will benefit from reduced personal income tax.

The government's priorities for health care will emphasize community-based services and health promotion. The Premier's Council on Health Strategy recently recommended health goals for Ontario. The government has adopted these goals in setting its agenda for health.

Funding for services including community mental health, public health, emergency health services and assistive devices will total \$1.3 billion this year. This funding includes \$349 million for home care assistance, an increase of \$70 million or 25 per cent; \$108 million for community mental health programs, an increase of 30 per cent; and an increase of 18 per cent for alcohol and drug dependency programs.

Provincial support for the operation of hospitals will increase by 8.3 per cent to \$6 billion. This level of funding will address specialty care needs in areas such as cancer care, cardiovascular services, dialysis and maternal and infant health.

The Ministry of Health is working with hospitals to develop a new, equitable funding system that will enable hospitals to operate within their budgets. To promote better management, monitoring and planning of health care in Ontario, the Ministry of Health is implementing a new computer system over the next five years. Individual health service numbers and cards will be issued to all Ontarians.

Social assistance is one of the fastest growing areas of provincial spending. It has increased by an average of 12.6 per cent annually since 1984-85. Over the same period, benefit levels on average increased by 37.9 per cent in total.

Even though the Ontario economy is in its seventh year of growth, the number of social assistance beneficiaries has grown by 4.6 per cent each year, compared to 1.3 per cent for Ontario's total population. Ontario now provides among the highest levels of social assistance benefits in Canada. For example, Ontario provides the highest level of benefits for single parents and disabled individuals. The government is committed to helping recipients attain greater economic self-sufficiency and therefore has decided to strengthen social assistance, in support of recommendations by the Social Assistance Review Committee.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services will implement changes that focus on improvements to benefits for families and children, and that will provide all recipients with greater opportunities for independence. These changes include increased benefits for children, redesigned and enriched shelter benefits, improved employment support programs, and removal of barriers which serve as disincentives to work.

In addition, social assistance benefits will be increased on average by six per cent on 1 January 1990.

With these measures, the government will increase support for social assistance recipients by \$415 million on a full-year basis. This year, Ontario's social assistance benefits will total \$2.3 billion, an increase of 92 per cent since 1984-85.

These reforms represent a major economic as well as social investment. The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney) and I have agreed that during the implementation of the reforms, we will provide for an independent review of their effectiveness.

The elimination of OHIP premiums is a major benefit to low-income individuals and families. A family previously paying full premiums will realize an annual saving of \$714.

In addition to these initiatives, I am announcing an increase in the minimum wage from \$4.75 to \$5 per hour, to take effect 1 October 1989.

In support of recommendations by the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, an additional \$55 million this year will be provided to improve the quality of services in agencies providing visiting homemaker services, attendant care services, as well as services for young offenders, the developmentally handicapped and victims of family violence. This will be accomplished through adjustments to salaries and benefits for lower-paid staff in those social service agencies.

The Ontario home ownership savings plan, announced last year, attracted 30,000 depositors. Effective immediately, first-time home buyers eligible for OHOSP credits will be able to obtain a full refund of the land transfer tax for homes priced up to \$150,000 and a partial refund for homes priced up to \$200,000. On a full-year basis, this program will provide \$10 million in refunds.

The \$2 billion in Canada pension plan funds made available in the 1988 budget for the Homes Now program has been fully committed. To further assist the nonprofit sector with lower-cost

mortgage financing, additional funds will be made available to bring the total commitment to \$3 billion. A further \$90 million will be provided annually to support the operation of the nonprofit housing units made possible by this lower-cost mortgage financing.

This budget's infrastructure initiatives will greatly assist in accommodating growth by reducing impediments to the development of land for housing. In addition, the government is working closely with municipalities and the building industry to streamline the planning and development approval processes.

Reflecting the government's many affordable housing initiatives, Ministry of Housing expenditures will reach \$537 million in this year, an increase of 28 per cent over the past year.

The shelter subsidy program available to individuals and families receiving social assistance will be redesigned and enriched to provide additional assistance to those most in need.

**1630**

The government is committed to assisting disabled citizens to participate fully in the economic and social activities of this province. Over the next two years, additional funding of \$10 million will be made available for the Ontario home renewal program for disabled persons. As the members know, this program provides interest-free loans for special modifications to homes.

A five-year, \$38-million initiative to provide disabled persons barrier-free access to all Ontario government buildings will be introduced. The budget also allocates an additional \$5 million this year to fulfil the government's commitment to improve transportation services for seniors and disabled people throughout the province.

I am announcing additional funding for a number of measures contained in the throne speech to provide safe and secure communities.

The extent to which illegal drugs have affected the lives of people was identified by the Task Force on Illegal Drug Use in Ontario, chaired by the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr Black). An additional \$37 million will be provided over two years for a wide range of activities, including community-based initiatives, drug abuse rehabilitation and increased law enforcement.

The government will allocate an additional \$12 million to assist with reform of the court system and \$10 million to fund security and other renovations of courthouses across the province.

Ontario's contribution to the legal aid plan will be increased by 25 per cent to \$123 million to

ensure that low-income individuals have access to advice and legal representation. In addition, \$2.5 million will be provided to expand the number of community legal aid clinics.

The government is responding to the recommendations of the Race Relations and Policing Task Force with \$12 million over two years to promote racial equality in police employment practices and greater access to services, and to improve the relationship between police and the community.

The government will add \$7.8 million to expand programs that prevent violence against women and children and to provide additional support to victims.

The throne speech contained significant measures to improve the quality of education in Ontario. This budget funds the first-year costs of initiatives that secure future opportunities for all our children and excellence in education from junior and senior kindergarten through secondary school.

Support for these programs will be phased in over five years, beginning in September 1990. Once fully implemented, up to \$194 million per year in operating grants will be made available by the province. In addition, \$100 million will be available for related capital projects.

A further \$60 million in capital funding will be provided over a five-year period for the renewal of technological education in secondary schools. Funding will be available beginning in the next fiscal year.

The government is committed to ensuring equitable access to financial resources for the publicly funded school systems. Beginning in 1990, the local tax base will be shared equitably by all school boards in the same area. I hope the honourable members on all sides will recognize that this is a historic announcement, bringing fairness and equity to the financing of our public school systems. This initiative will be phased in over six years, at an annual cost to the province of up to \$180 million when fully implemented.

In the 1988 budget, the government responded to local needs for school facilities with a \$900-million, three-year commitment to school construction and renovation. This commitment has been extended to \$1.2 billion over four years. Since 1984-85, more than \$2.4 billion in school capital projects has been committed. To further accelerate school construction, \$300 million in provincial funding for 1990-91 projects will be advanced this fiscal year.

I draw to the honourable members' attention, which may not be necessary, that the funding

here is advanced for the plan in 1990-91. We feel that the sooner we get the capital construction under way, the better we can meet the problems we are all aware of.

An additional \$1 million will be provided to improve services to Ontario's public libraries.

Transfer payments to the municipal sector this year will total \$4.5 billion, an increase of eight per cent or \$333 million over last year. Transfers to municipalities for social assistance for individuals and families in need will increase by 13.6 per cent. This increase includes additional assistance for the enriched benefits provided in response to the recommendations of the Social Assistance Review Committee report. Funding for transit facilities will increase by 16.6 per cent, for environmental services by 23.7 per cent and for child care services provided in day nurseries by 16.6 per cent.

The province advanced \$413 million of this year's unconditional grants entitlements to municipalities last year. This action provided a cash flow advantage to the municipalities.

#### 1640

Municipalities and school boards need more resources for schools, roads, sewers and other infrastructure to accommodate development. The government has completed extensive consultation on the green paper entitled Financing Growth-Related Capital Needs that explored a number of options for financing this infrastructure. The Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr Eakins) will introduce the Development Charges Act, which will give municipalities and school boards the option of establishing lot levies for the local share of growth-related capital projects.

School boards currently raise capital funds from property taxes and debentures. In addition to the option of lot levies, school boards will be given the further option of borrowing up to \$200 million in lower-cost Canada pension plan funds. They will also be encouraged to consider payments in kind and other innovative financing arrangements with developers. The Development Charges Act will provide a permissive legislative framework for municipalities' front-end financing arrangements and will bring structure to existing lot levies.

With the government's other initiatives in this area, these financing alternatives should reduce the impediments to approval of land for housing and ease the adjustment to rapid growth.

I would like to thank municipalities for their co-operation in holding lot levies constant during the consultation period. I would urge municipalities to consider the intent of the Development

Charges Act in establishing their lot levy policies over the next few months.

Ontario's agriculture industry continues to face a challenging economic environment. In addition to \$220 million in sales and fuel tax rebates and exemptions, Ontario provides \$524 million in support of the agricultural community in 1988-89.

Direct financial assistance to agriculture, including property tax rebates, low-interest loans and commodity price supports has more than doubled, in fact 110.8 per cent, from 1984-85 to 1988-89, and this year will total \$239 million. A five-year, \$55-million program to provide greater support for the red meat industry will be introduced. Assistance to new farmers under Farm-Start will increase to over \$11 million. The farm property tax rebate program will be targeted to assist those engaged in full-time farming activities.

Other support to the agricultural community includes the balance of a \$10-million contribution to a \$40-million joint extension of the federal-provincial tobacco exit assistance program, and \$29.5 million for programs in support of adjustments in the wine and grape industry.

In recognition of the importance of environmental protection, the government introduced the land stewardship/soil conservation program in 1987. This program provides technical and financial assistance to farmers for soil conservation. This year, funding for land conservation management will increase by \$3.3 million to \$12.3 million.

In recognition of the economic importance of Ontario's cultural sector and its unique ability to foster creativity, this budget provides an additional \$25 million to a variety of organizations and institutions that contribute to Ontario's rich cultural environment. This funding will make possible the extension of TVOntario service in eastern Ontario; additional support for artists and art organizations through the Ontario Arts Council; greater support for international touring by the National Ballet and the Toronto Symphony; funding for the International Telecommunications Discovery Centre, and capital improvements to the Royal Ontario Museum, the McMichael Canadian Collection, the Royal Botanical Gardens and Science North.

The fully indexed pension benefits of our teachers and public servants are among the best in North America. However, expert reports have indicated serious shortcomings with the financing of their indexation benefits.

Legislation will be introduced to provide necessary financial reforms. One consolidated pension fund will be established for the teachers' plan and a separate consolidated pension fund will be established for the public service plan. To sustain future benefits, the government will increase its contribution by one percentage point. Public servants and teachers will be required to provide a matching contribution. Over the next 40 years, the government will pay for past deficits estimated to total \$5.7 billion.

The plans will be permitted to invest in market securities and the contribution rate has been set on this basis. Benefit improvements brought about by Ontario's recent pension reforms will be embodied in the legislation. This budget allocates funding to place the plans on a sound financial footing, finally.

The federal budget included reductions in federal support for health care and post-secondary education; deferral of the Canada child care bill; increased federal excise and sales taxes, increased personal income taxes and increased corporate taxes, and alterations to the unemployment insurance program. The negative fiscal impact on Ontario of the federal budget is estimated to be \$560 million on a full-year basis.

The federal budget further reduces Canada's commitment to the historic partnership which has supported health and post-secondary education. Previous reductions introduced by the federal government to established programs financing entitlements amounted to approximately \$970 million last year and will be about \$1.2 billion this fiscal year. With the latest changes, the federal share of these programs will be reduced from a high of 51 per cent in 1979-80 to less than 38 per cent now.

The federal government has also reduced by 50 per cent its commitment for regional economic development in Ontario.

Deferral of the Canada child care bill is disappointing, since the federal program would have implemented Ontario's commitment to child care announced in the New Directions policy. However, the federal government will continue to share costs of child care programs under the Canada assistance plan.

The federal government's announced intention to proceed with implementation of a new federal sales tax has significant implications for Ontario's economy, social programs and fiscal position. It is important that the federal government continue to work with the provinces and the territories to minimize the duplication and

confusion that it will create with the introduction of a new federal sales tax.

"Pay as you go" continues to be a fundamental principle guiding the government's fiscal policy. This budget produces the highest operating surplus in Ontario's history, which will fund 82 per cent of Ontario's largest ever annual capital expenditure. I am pleased to report that Ontario will have an operating surplus of \$2.6 billion and that the deficit has been reduced by \$911 million this year to \$577 million, the lowest level in 15 years.

The government's record of fiscal management has been achieved through its determination to control spending while raising the necessary revenues to meet the needs of the people of Ontario. The province's per capita spending remains lower than that of four other provinces.

Last year's budget set a target of \$500 million for in-year expenditure savings and constraints. I am pleased to report to the House that target has been achieved.

More than 75 per cent of increased expenditure requirements this year are dedicated to health care, education, housing and social services.

Additional revenue measures are described in budget paper A and include: changes to the land transfer tax, motive fuel taxation, driver's licence fees, alcohol levies, water power rental rates and retail sales tax rebates on alternative fuel conversions and on vehicles for the disabled; introduction of unclaimed property legislation, which is interesting, and mining tax instalments, and application of a debt guarantee fee to Ontario Hydro.

## 1650

The government is focusing its resources to support Ontario's competitive position, while responding to the needs of those less able to help themselves. Sustainable and environmentally compatible economic growth is the key to improving the quality of life for all in Ontario.

This budget addresses the recommendations of the Social Assistance Review Committee. It substantially enriches benefits for children and their families and includes major increases to meet basic shelter needs. At the same time, individuals and families will be able to take advantage of new opportunities for independence embodied in the major reform of the social assistance system.

This budget keeps Ontario competitive, secures the financing of health care, reforms Ontario's assistance to the socially and economically disadvantaged, provides for major trans-

portation investments, supports a cleaner, healthier environment, and funds the introduction of education innovations.

This budget ensures the necessary revenues are in place to secure the future of Ontario's essential services. This budget provides individuals and families with \$1 billion in direct savings and lower taxes through the elimination of Ontario health insurance plan premiums.

All this is accomplished with Ontario's future clearly in mind and with renewed dedication to Ontario's policy of continued fiscal responsibility.

**The Speaker:** Does any other member wish to participate in this debate?

On motion by Mr Laughren, the debate was adjourned.

**Hon Mr Conway:** Consistent with normal budget address custom, I seek unanimous consent to revert to introduction of bills.

**The Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### ONTARIO LOAN ACT, 1989

Hon R. F. Nixon moved first reading of Bill 17, An Act to authorize the raising of Money on the Credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Motion agreed to.

### ONTARIO MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

Hon R. F. Nixon moved first reading of Bill 18, An Act to amend the Ontario Municipal Improvement Corporation Act.

Motion agreed to.

### POWER CORPORATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

Hon Mr Wong moved first reading of Bill 19, An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act.

Motion agreed to.

### DEVELOPMENT CHARGES ACT, 1989

Hon Mr Eakins moved first reading of Bill 20, An Act to provide for Payment of Development Charges.

Motion agreed to.

### FUEL TAX AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

### LOI PORTANT MODIFICATION DE LA LOI DE 1981 DE LA TAXE SUR LES CARBURANTS, 1989

Hon Mr Grandmaître moved first reading of Bill 21, An Act to amend the Fuel Tax Act, 1981.

L'hon. M. Grandmaître propose la première lecture du projet de loi 21, Loi portant modification de la Loi de 1981 de la taxe sur les carburants.

Motion agreed to.

La motion est adoptée.

### LOI PORTANT MODIFICATION DE LA LOI SUR LA TAXE DE VENTE AU DÉTAIL, 1989

### RETAIL SALES TAX AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

L'hon. M. Grandmaître propose la première lecture du projet de loi 22, Loi portant modification de la Loi sur la taxe de vente au détail.

Hon Mr Grandmaître moved first reading of Bill 22, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act.

La motion est adoptée.

Motion agreed to.

### LAND TRANSFER TAX AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

### LOI PORTANT MODIFICATION DE LA LOI SUR LES DROITS DE CESSION IMMOBILIÈRE, 1989

Hon Mr Grandmaître moved first reading of Bill 23, An Act to amend the Land Transfer Tax Act.

L'hon. M. Grandmaître propose la première lecture du projet de loi 23, Loi portant modification de la Loi sur les droits de cession immobilière.

Motion agreed to.

La motion est adoptée.

### LOI PORTANT MODIFICATION DE LA LOI DE LA TAXE SUR L'ESSENCE, 1989

### GASOLINE TAX AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

L'hon. M. Grandmaître propose la première lecture du projet de loi 24, Loi portant modification de la Loi de la taxe sur l'essence.

Hon Mr Grandmaître moved first reading of Bill 24, An Act to amend the Gasoline Tax Act.

La motion est adoptée.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 1700.

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS\*

(130 seats)

Second Session, 34th Parliament

**Lieutenant Governor: Hon Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC**

- 
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)  
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)  
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)  
 Beer, Charles (York North L)  
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)  
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)  
**Bradley, Hon James J.**, Minister of the Environment (St Catharines L)  
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)  
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)  
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)  
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)  
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)  
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)  
**Caplan, Hon Elinor**, Minister of Health (Oriole L)  
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)  
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)  
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)  
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)  
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)  
**Conway, Hon Sean G.**, Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)  
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)  
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)  
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)  
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)  
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)  
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)  
**Curling, Hon Alvin**, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)  
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)  
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St Catharines-Brock L)  
**Eakins, Hon John F.**, Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)  
**Edighoffer, Hon Hugh A.**, Speaker (Perth L)  
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)  
**Elston, Hon Murray J.**, Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Financial Institutions (Bruce L)  
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)  
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)  
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)  
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)  
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)  
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)  
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)  
**Fontaine, Hon René**, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)  
**Fulton, Hon Ed**, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)  
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)  
**Grandmaître, Hon Bernard C.**, Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)  
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)  
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)  
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)  
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)  
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)  
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)  
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 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)  
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)  
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)  
 Kanter, Ron (St Andrew-St Patrick L)  
**Kerrio, Hon Vincent G.**, Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)  
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)  
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)  
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)  
**Kwinter, Hon Monte**, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)  
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)  
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)  
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)  
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)  
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)  
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)  
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)  
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)  
**Mancini, Hon Remo**, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)  
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)  
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)  
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)  
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)  
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)  
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)  
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)  
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)  
**McLeod, Hon Lyn**, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)  
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)

Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)  
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)  
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste Marie NDP)  
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)  
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)  
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)  
**Nixon, Hon Robert F.**, Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Brant-Haldimand L)  
**Oddie Munro, Hon Lily**, Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)  
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)  
**O'Neil, Hon Hugh P.**, Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)  
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)  
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)  
**Patten, Hon Richard**, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)  
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)  
**Peterson, Hon David R.**, Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)  
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)  
**Phillips, Hon Gerry**, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)  
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)  
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)  
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)  
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)  
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)  
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)  
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)  
**Ramsay, Hon David**, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)  
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-Walkerville L)  
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)  
 Reyecraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

**Riddell, Hon Jack**, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)  
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)  
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)  
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)  
**Scott, Hon Ian G.**, Attorney General (St George-St David L)  
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)  
**Smith, Hon E. Joan**, Solicitor General (London South L)  
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)  
**Sorbara, Hon Gregory S.**, Minister of Labour (York Centre L)  
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)  
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)  
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)  
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)  
**Sweeney, Hon John**, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)  
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)  
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)  
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)  
**Ward, Hon Christopher C.**, Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)  
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)  
**Wilson, Hon Mavis**, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)  
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)  
**Wong, Hon Robert C.**, Minister of Energy (Fort York L)  
**Wrye, Hon William**, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

\*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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No. 15

# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario

**Second Session, 34th Parliament**  
Thursday, 18 May 1989



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, 18 May 1989

The House met at 1000.

Prayers.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS BANKING SERVICES

Mr Runciman moved resolution 5:

That in the opinion of this House, recognizing that there have been 28 bank branch closures across Ontario between 1982 and 1986 which have left many small communities without adequate banking services, the government of Ontario should review all requests for satellite banking services and establish Province of Ontario Savings Offices in those areas where population levels demonstrate a need for them and where financial benefits can be determined.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The member has up to 20 minutes to make his presentation and may reserve any portion of that 20 minutes for the windup.

**Mr Runciman:** This resolution arose as a result of concerns in my own riding of Leeds-Grenville in 1987 following the closure of the Toronto-Dominion Bank branch in a small rural community, North Augusta. Mr Speaker, as a resident of eastern Ontario, you may indeed be familiar with North Augusta, a beautiful little rural community approximately 15 to 20 miles outside of Brockville.

The closure of the Toronto-Dominion Bank branch in that village was a major tragedy—and I do not think that is too strong a word—in that area. One of the primary reasons it was construed as a tragedy was that the overwhelming numbers in terms of the population of that area are elderly people who have been encouraged by this government, the federal government and governments in the past to make every effort to stay in their own homes. The loss of that banking service in their village was another disincentive, if you will, to remaining in their own homes and in the community where they had spent their lives.

We can look at programs that have been brought in over the past number of years, the Victorian Order of Nurses service, the Red Cross homemakers service. A whole host of programs have been brought in provincially, federally and

municipally to try to assist and encourage our growing, increasingly older population in this province to stay in their own homes as long as they possibly can.

In my view, the opportunity to have banking services in your own community is another element that this government should look favourably upon in terms of filling a vacuum left by the private sector. As most members know, I am certainly a strong supporter of the private sector, and I may be open to some humorous comments from the other parties today in respect of my stand on this issue. But I believe I am being consistent, because I do strongly believe that government certainly has a role to play in areas where the private sector is either unwilling or unable to fulfil that capacity.

In this respect, I want to say that once the Toronto-Dominion pulled out of North Augusta, I made an effort to encourage other chartered banks to fill that void, and failed. I also went to a trust company and spent considerable time with that trust company in an effort to have it move into the village. I will give them credit; they spent some time, did a thorough assessment and felt that it was not in their best interests to establish a branch. Having exhausted the private sector options first, I then turned to the government as a possible source of providing that much-needed service in rural Ontario.

I know in the past the current Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) has been very supportive of the Province of Ontario Savings Office and its expansion. I stand to be corrected by members of the government if this is not correct, but I believe his father, Harry, was the Premier of the province—he had a very brief tenure as Premier—when POSO was established. That may be the case, and that may be the reason for the current Treasurer's—

**Mr Dietsch:** Imagine all the good things he would have done if he had been there longer.

**Mr Runciman:** I could say the same about Frank Miller.

That may be the source of the current Treasurer's affection for POSO, I am not sure. Indeed, I have an account in POSO in Toronto.

Currently, POSO has 21 offices in 15 communities across the province. Six of those branches

are in the city of Toronto. Looking through the phone book, there are a number in some of the smaller communities in Ontario, Aylmer, Guelph, Walkerton, to name a few, but none in what we would call the small rural communities, with populations of 1,000 to 1,500, which could be serving much greater populations surrounding them.

I think that is an area this government could take a serious look at. It is certainly a growing concern in my own area and, I know, in other parts of eastern Ontario. I cannot speak for other regions of the province, but I suspect the situation is somewhat similar.

Between 1984 and 1986, we had 28 chartered bank branch closures in Ontario, and that was just in a two-year period. That is an indication of the fact that the chartered banks are abandoning rural Ontario, much to the distress of residents in those areas.

1010

**Mr Wildman:** Just like the government.

**Mr Runciman:** Well, I do not want to get into making this a partisan discussion today. I think there is an opportunity here for all three parties to recognize that need and to address it in a very nonpartisan fashion. I am hoping that is going to be the thrust of the debate here today.

I want to talk a little bit about how the government can do this as a possibility. I have suggested in my resolution that they "establish Province of Ontario Savings Offices in those areas where population levels demonstrate a need for them and where financial benefits can be determined." I have tried to qualify it in such a way that it is worded in what I believe is a responsible fashion.

If we take a look at just my area—obviously that is the one I have a better understanding of—following the North Augusta closure of the Toronto-Dominion Bank we had another closure, in the small village of Lyndhurst, a couple of months later. If you are looking at my riding, it may not be attractive to go into both of those rural communities and open up a five-day-a-week operation; but I think if the government is committed to providing this kind of service, there are very innovative ways it can be achieved without establishing some sort of onerous cost burden on the taxpayers. I do not think that has to happen at all.

I think these can be done on a nonprofit basis and certainly do not have to be, in any way, shape or form, money losers for the taxpayers of this province. I would not want to see that happen and

I am sure the Minister of Revenue (Mr Grandmaître) would not want to see that happen.

But, for example, we have had this happening in rural areas for many years, where you will see a post office operating out of the corner of a grocery store or out of a hardware store. The government has now expanded—and, I might suggest, at my urging—the agency store concept, which has been established in northern Ontario for some time, where they can sell alcohol products out of a variety of stores. I think if POSO can take a look at that kind of approach, it may make it that much more feasible to go into some of these smaller communities. Again, I will use my riding as an example.

If they went into Lyndhurst and operated out of the corner of a hardware store or a grocery store two days per week, Monday and Tuesday, and the next three days of the week they operated out of North Augusta, they are operating with the same staff and they are just going 20 or 30 miles to operate their branches in those different small rural communities. I think that may make it much more attractive and attainable, in terms of cost-effectiveness, for POSO to go into many of these rural communities that are finding themselves without adequate banking services.

I have spoken to the Canadian Bankers' Association with respect to providing banking machines in these communities, which seems to most of us to be only common sense, but if you talk to the bankers they are not prepared to do that either. They feel the maintenance of these machines, the fact that they have to be filled with new bills—there are a whole host of complications and reasons they can come forward with.

The bottom line, in any event, is that they are not prepared to do it. I am not sure that POSO is into banking machines as yet. I do not believe they are, but in any event the answer I have had from the Canadian Bankers' Association is that it will not work, it is not practical. But again, perhaps it is something POSO could independently take a look at.

Rural Ontario is increasingly losing its voice, its importance, its influence, if you will, in matters in this province. We saw it through redistribution prior to the last provincial election, where we see Ontario becoming increasingly urbanized. Even in this Legislature, the representatives from rural Ontario are becoming a smaller and smaller percentage of this body. So the voices and the influence we can bring to bear and members of all parties can bring to bear with respect to the concerns of their constituents are

gradually being reduced. I think that is another concern.

To the best of our ability as members of this body, we have to represent all people of Ontario as effectively as we possibly can and try to address the very real needs of the communities out there. I think most of us in this place are committed to doing that as best we can. I believe strongly that POSO has a role to play, a much more activist kind of role than it has played up to this point in time.

I placed this resolution in Orders and Notices back in 1987, following the provincial election. I spoke to the Treasurer, who was very supportive at the time, and also communicated with his successor as Minister of Revenue. He also seems to be basically supportive of the intent and thrust of this motion, but I have not seen that translated up to this point into any concrete proposals or initiatives.

I hope that if this resolution is looked upon favourably today, we can see some action forthcoming in the very near future, because I think this is important. It sends out a very clear message to rural Ontario, as well as a variety of other things that we are attempting to do to try to make life easier for people in rural Ontario and to allow our elderly to remain in their homes in rural Ontario. That we are prepared to provide this additional service, this very important service to people to make it that much more feasible for them to remain in their own homes for a good many more years. I will try to retain the rest of my time to respond to comments made by other members of the House.

**Mr Faubert:** It is a pleasure today to rise on the resolution by the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr Runciman), which essentially recommends the expansion of the service provided by the Province of Ontario Savings Office, affectionately known as POSO to members of the Legislature and much of the public, by providing service to communities which do not have adequate access to banking services.

One point I should clarify for the background of members of the Legislature is that technically POSO is not a bank; it is a deposit-taking institution governed solely by provincial legislation and is defined as a "near bank" in financial institution terms. I wish to speak in favour of the resolution and I think we should provide first a brief overview of the role of the Province of Ontario Savings Office over the years.

The savings office was founded in 1921 by the United Farmers of Ontario government, interestingly enough, as pointed out by the member for

Leeds-Grenville, by the Treasurer's father, Harry Nixon, who at that time was Provincial Secretary in the United Farmers of Ontario government. The objectives were to provide loans to farmers and small business as part of an agricultural credit scheme and also, according to the conspectus of 1924, to promote and encourage thrift among the citizens of Ontario.

Although the United Farmers government lasted only two years, the Conservatives who took over as the succeeding government kept the savings office because they recognized the importance to a number of rural communities not served at that time by other financial institutions. In between 1934 and 1936, the Liberal government of the day added a further eight branches to the original 17 for a total of 25. However, during the Second World War four branches were closed and that brought the total in 1943 to the present number of 21, the number correctly put forward by the member for Leeds-Grenville.

The savings office mandate, while originally to promote the development of agriculture, was also to encourage saving among the people of the province. POSO feels that it has achieved its mandate because it offers savings and chequing services combined with high interest rates, and at that time it quickly established its popularity with the public, which was reflected in a continual and rapid growth in deposits.

However, under the succeeding Conservative governments POSO's development was not encouraged. Indeed, there were many calls for privatization or abolition from the Conservative ranks. During the 1970s several studies were undertaken to either close or sell the savings office. No decision, of course, was made one way or the other, but POSO was held in position and required to operate with the same amount of services it actually offered in the 1920s.

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This was in a period of aggressive expansion by the banking service industry, which became a very aggressive marketer of services. As a result, POSO's rather staid, single-account system became uncompetitive. In 1984, deposits fell for the first time since the Depression. However, with the election of the new Liberal government in 1985, POSO was immediately authorized to offer more competitive services and positive steps were taken by giving it a wider range of banking service instruments.

We all know that in 1986 the Trillium daily interest savings-chequing account was introduced, which offers two tiers of interest above and below \$5,000. Interest is calculated daily

and credited monthly and it has chequing privileges, of course. The success of the account is pointed out by the fact that deposits have grown from \$630 million in 1986 to the point today where 80,000 Ontarians have deposited \$1.25 billion of their savings.

In response to requests from the public, in 1988 the savings office offered guaranteed investment certificates, or GICs as they are commonly known, and in little over a year 13,000 Ontarians have invested \$200 million of their savings in POSO GICs.

POSO, of course, is part of the government program of assisting first-time home buyers. The Ontario home ownership plan, OHOSP, was introduced and the OHOSP account was offered by POSO on 1 September, and as such was one of the first to be offered under this program. The POSO OHOSP account today offers 10.75 per cent interest and there are more than 2,000 depositors with a total sum on deposit of \$2.2 million. POSO also relocated some branches, such as in Brantford and Hamilton, to give them more competitive sites.

Of course, while all this was going on—part of this was written by the ministry so you have to appreciate that this is part of a commercial for POSO—it still offers what it calls its “no frills” account. That is still a very popular one in the wake of some of the criticism of banking charges.

POSO also leases safety deposit boxes at low rates, and has travellers’ cheques at no commission, money orders and most international currencies, purchase and sale of securities, and finally, friendly and helpful service.

**Mr Dietsch:** End of the commercial.

**Mr Faubert:** End of the commercial. However, the new services offered by the savings office have been well received. Today, deposits exceed \$1.4 billion, which is up \$600 million from 1985. POSO continues to be a very popular financial institution—it is popular certainly among members of this Legislature—as depositors welcome the opportunity of investing in Ontario, and every single dollar is guaranteed by the province of Ontario.

Today in Ontario, there are 4,700 branches of financial institutions serving 8.8 million people. That is one for every 1,900 people, which by any standard is good, but for some years POSO has been aware of the difficulties faced by residents of small and remote communities that do not have ready access to the services of a bank, trust company, credit union or *caisse populaire*.

Many Ontarians have taken the time to draw our attention to their plight through ever-increasing correspondence. There have been many members of the government party, and as well the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr Pouliot); I am aware of his interest in this. There are presentations and resolutions, such as that of the member for Leeds-Grenville, on behalf of their constituents, for a POSO branch. In a study carried out by the savings office in 1986, it was determined that in southern Ontario, 292,000 people live in 178 communities with no bank, trust company, credit union or *caisse populaire*. In the north, however, 76,355 people live in 286 communities with absolutely no financial institution.

The savings office examined options by which services could be provided to these communities, and after careful analysis, including discussions with the Alberta Treasury branches—Alberta is the only other province in Canada, along with Ontario, that has government savings offices—a program was defined by which savings office agents could be established in small or remote communities. A local person would act as an agent under direct supervision of a regular savings office branch. The agent would be paid by commission and would provide cheque-cashing and deposit services, plus other services such as money orders and travellers’ cheques.

Staff in the savings office have identified a number of communities in northern and eastern Ontario that in their opinion could support a Province of Ontario Savings Office branch. To ensure the branch would be available to provide this necessary support, the savings office has made arrangements with the Ministry of Government Services to provide space for branches in new government buildings that are being built in the north.

As a result, I am pleased to advise that the savings office will open a branch in Sudbury in July 1990. This will be followed by additional branches in Thunder Bay in December 1990 and Sault Ste Marie in December 1991.

These are the logical first steps to establish a presence in the north, as a basis for a network of agents located in smaller remote communities that are connected to the central branches by telephone or computer hookup. The decision on location of these branches will be made after the first three branches are established and the service is stabilized.

On the matter of further expansion of the service, I am not in a position to provide further details at this time. However, the government is

presently carrying out a thorough study of POSO's operations.

I will just make one last comment. It may be of interest to members to know that to play the active role proposed by the member for Leeds-Grenville, POSO's statutes would require revision to give it a solid business mandate, which may involve changing its status to a crown agency rather than a department of the Ministry of Revenue, as it is presently.

I urge all members to support the resolution of the member for Leeds-Grenville.

**Mr Wildman:** I rise in support of the resolution and congratulate the member for Leeds-Grenville in bringing the matter before the House.

I must say also that I found the intervention of the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr Faubert) quite helpful. He characterized it as an advertisement proposal, but I think it was useful to the members of the House because it did outline the operations of the savings offices and the possible approaches to expanding into other areas.

I might say at the outset without being too partisan, as this is private member's hour, that when I read this first resolution and saw who had introduced it I was tempted to ridicule, not the aim of the resolution as I support it, but the fact that this could indeed be seen as a serious intervention in the invisible hand of the marketplace, an attempt by government to somehow limit the free market and somehow interfere with the market forces of which we know the member for Leeds-Grenville is very supportive and is wont to expound about in this House on occasion.

However, I do understand his concern, as he represents a rural area in eastern Ontario, an area I am familiar with. Also, as I represent a very large rural constituency in northern Ontario, I know exactly the problems he is having.

In Canada, I suppose the banking system is the epitome of the capitalist system. He used the term "bottom line" in another context in his presentation, but the member for Leeds-Grenville will recognize that the banks, for obvious reasons, are concerned about the bottom line, and the bottom line is that it is not profitable enough for the banks to maintain branches or even satellite branches in many small communities because the amount of business does not balance off the overhead, the cost of doing business, in those communities.

The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere pointed out that there is one financial institution

branch for every 1,900 residents in Ontario, but he did point out a large number of communities that have no financial institutions of any kind.

In my area, we have a very difficult situation in a community called White River, which I know you are familiar with, Mr Speaker. It is halfway between Thunder Bay and Sault Ste Marie on Highway 17. That means it is approximately 200 miles from the Sault and Thunder Bay. The closest full-fledged bank branches to White River are in Wawa, 60 miles to the southeast, or Marathon, 60 miles to the northwest. One of the banks had historically maintained a branch in White River, but it was closed a few years ago during an economic downturn in White River. Since that time, the same bank has run a satellite service from Wawa to White River a couple of days a week. This has meant enormous inconvenience to the local businesses and has meant long, long lineups.

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During a couple of election campaigns, I found that the best way to canvass in White River was simply to go to the bank on the day it was open. You could meet just about everybody in town there because they were lined up around the block. This is most inappropriate. I also understand, though, the bank's position. The bank has extended service somewhat for a few more days after a great deal of pressure from the local town council, myself and the local business community, to try to alleviate the lineups and the inconvenience, but the bank says it cannot promise to do this for ever unless business picks up, because it does not feel it is profitable enough for it to do this.

I also support this resolution because I think it would give an option to communities like White River. I am sorry, though, that the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere did not make this clear: Besides opening new offices in Sudbury and Thunder Bay in the north that could then become the focal point for telephone networking to allow for agency branches in the small communities that do not have financial institutions, he did not say that POSO is actively advertising this so people know about it. I do not think there is any attempt by the Ministry of Revenue to promote the possibility of establishing near-banks—Province of Ontario Savings Office branches—in these small communities.

The member mentioned Alberta. Alberta established a similar institution many years ago and I understand it has, in proportion, something like five times as many offices as Ontario, if you take population into account. Of course, the

reason in Alberta was that it was an attempt to encourage economic activity in rural communities and particularly in agricultural communities, to make financing available to the farm community.

I think we should be looking at the Province of Ontario Savings Office branches in a similar way in Ontario. My former colleague from Welland-Thorold was a great advocate of this approach, to try to assist the rural communities and agriculture to obtain banking services in areas where they were not available, and also, frankly, as a way of alleviating some of the interest squeeze farmers face by providing loans at lower interest rates to farmers.

I am a little concerned about the approach, even with the expansion since 1986, that POSO takes in Ontario. I understand there are about 21 offices in this province. Six of them are in Toronto. If there is any community that has a myriad of financial institutions and banking services in this province, it is Toronto. I really do not see why more than the head office should be located in this city.

I understand there is one located in Ottawa as well. Again, it is not a community that is short of banking services. If that is seen as a regional headquarters for POSO, which then could be expanded into eastern Ontario in a way similar to what the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere was saying POSO hopes to do in northern Ontario by establishing branches in Sudbury and Thunder Bay, that would be useful. But if it just a branch to operate in Ottawa without expanding into the rest of the eastern Ontario communities, it is not very useful.

The banks in this province are in business to make as much money as possible, to maximize profits. They are the only institutions in our economy that benefited from the federal budget. Frankly, it is amusing, or I think even tragic that the federal Minister of Finance did not take the opportunity to impose some further taxation on the banks, since he had whipped up such a concern about needing to consolidate and improve the revenues of the federal government while cutting expenditures.

The banks expected it and obviously were not too happy about it. It was a nice surprise to them that they did not have to pay. They are the only institutions that got off without having to pay. I think that is unfortunate. It seems to me that if the banks are indeed going to be able to make as much money as they make and have the tremendous concentration of wealth that we have in this country, which is far greater even than in

the United States in the banking institutions, they should be obligated to provide services in the smaller communities.

If, however, we cannot and do not have a government that is prepared to try to encourage the banks to move, and as a part of doing business to provide services that perhaps do not make them as much money and perhaps even cost them some money, then we should be counteracting that by providing an alternative service in small communities, like White River in my riding, that are seeing banking services curtailed, making it difficult for local small business to expand and for the residents of the communities to obtain the savings and financing services they need.

**Mr Cureatz:** As we are participating in this debate after the fallout of the budget, I have to begin my remarks by indicating that I am supporting my colleague's resolution this morning. Of course, it would now be apparent, from listening to those who have already spoken before me, that he does have support.

I want, though, to do something a little different. I mean, am I known for it or not? I thought to myself, "Self, is this something that has happened close to my particular riding of Durham East?" Interestingly enough, about a year ago in the great riding of Northumberland, which is the riding east of mine, my wife and family happened to vacation in the community of Colborne. Castleton is a very small community north of Colborne, a very small hamlet. They had what I guess you would call a part-time bank that opened two days a week in the mornings. Lo and behold, it was closed and I thought to myself that was a little sad.

Am I allowed to name banks? Are we protected? Two weeks ago I got a call, I think, from the Royal Bank, the head officer out of Oshawa or something. He left a message, "Tell the member that we are closing the branch office in Blackstock." I thought to myself, "Now isn't that rascally?" It is so frustrating when you get the call from on high. I can remember waiting for years trying to get the call from the then Premier to get into cabinet. Now I get another call from another hierarchy, way up in the towers of Bay Street, telling me that one of my little communities, Blackstock, will not have the facility of a banking service. I sort of sat back in my chair and just shrugged. I mean, how do you attack the banks?

I remind everybody that they can just sit around the Golden Horseshoe and look towards Toronto and can see those darned bank towers sticking up in the sky. We are all paying our

interest to the banks so they can build the darned things. You say to yourself, "How does that relate to the community of Blackstock so the residents there would have banking facilities?" We are pushing all this stuff into the big Toronto King-Bay Street area and there are people out in those rural communities who want these kinds of services.

I have the map of Ontario for all members who are not familiar with it. When you look down at the legend here, there is a little circle. When you see this little circle, it says, "Community or community within a regional municipality." I took a look across just southern Ontario, because my colleague the member for Algoma (Mr Wildman) certainly has a better working handle in terms of northern Ontario, and I circled some areas right across southern Ontario where I bet they do not have banking facilities and where, I guarantee members, there are people who have to travel a great deal of distance to do their banking.

1040

Of course now, I say to my colleague the member for Durham Centre (Mr Furlong), with this very onerous provincial budget, this sin tax on driving, it is going to be more expensive to drive to those communities. Why can we not start thinking in terms of looking at the smaller hamlets for part-time services?

Let's just take a tour boat, as Bud Germa, the former former member for Sudbury used to say, across southern Ontario, starting down to the west. I wonder what is happening in Cottam, or in Merlin, or how about near Nanticoke? I know Nanticoke is sort of a bit bigger community. I am sure it will have a banking facility. But how about Villa Nova, and then working our way further north, north of London to Newry, or Bluevale, or how about way up in the peninsula, Clarks Corners? Do members think these communities have banking facilities?

Certainly with today's technology we could come up with the solution to work out a system to help facilitate banking requirements of our people in the province. Just north of Toronto—well, halfway between Toronto and Collingwood—Terra Nova; and how about in the riding of my colleague who is sitting here to my right, farther east into Tamworth, Enterprise, Kirk Cove, Catchacoma, Flower Station?

**An Hon member:** Absolutely nothing.

**Mr Cureatz:** He is familiar with it. He says, "Absolutely nothing."

Surely with today's technology we could get our act together to do something. I heard my colleague who brought forward the resolution

say how he turned to the banks and how he turned to the trust companies. My NDP friend the member for Algoma indicated that when he had the problem, the banks indicated that they look to the bottom line.

I will tell the members, as I indicated in one of the committees, I do not ever remember the president of General Motors campaigning for me in my elections, and I get labelled as a Tory supporting big business; nor do I remember one of the presidents of the big banks ever canvassing for good old Sam Cureatz in Durham East who is a Conservative and I still get labelled as a Conservative. So why should I worry about the banks?

I say, let's take a look at these good corporate citizens who are building these huge monstrosities in downtown Toronto, causing traffic chaos to such an extent that now this government has to put in a special tax on the greater Toronto area to alleviate the problem. Why do we not start thinking of first putting some pressure on these banks to follow the position of being good corporate citizens and moving out into these communities?

We heard it already from my colleague who brought in the resolution: "Well, we can't do that. It's the technology, it's the computers; it just won't work." Gobbledegoosh, or as they used to say in law school—what did they used to say in law school—balderdash. You hear this all the time from these big institutions, which are as bad as big majority governments, as we have here presently in Ontario, and there is a road that should be taken to look in these smaller communities.

I indicated that we do have a problem in terms of the seniors, because do members know what this means now? A senior in the rural communities—and look, they do not all want to come to the greater Toronto area, they want to stay in their local municipalities—has to turn to his friends, his neighbours, his relatives, and rightly so, but in terms of banking it is a personal relationship in terms of a person's monetary status. Why do they have to rely now on somebody else? Why can they not follow through on their personal finances directly with the institution?

Now with the closures, as I have indicated in my own community in Blackstock—and in Durham East we could be looking at places like Columbus, Raglan, Myrtle Station, Myrtle, Kendal, my little home community. Pontypool, I think, does have an institution, as does Bethany, but Nestleton or Nestleton Station, Seagrave,

Caesaria, and Janetville—Janetville services a large area.

As a matter of fact, the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations has allowed a franchise operation with a liquor store. That is a step in the right direction, and certainly I support my colleague who brought forward the resolution that indicated—look, we don't need 57 storeys of a bank building in downtown Janetville, but what we could use is a little corner so that people in that surrounding area would have the opportunity of walking to the bank, or at least not driving so far.

Alternatively, if we cannot put some kind of heat on these big banking institutions, then maybe we should be thinking in terms of approaching the Province of Ontario Savings Office. Certainly, the speaker from the government side indicated it would be supportive of something innovative along that line, and maybe that is the road we have to go.

I am looking with great interest to see if this resolution can be followed up, because when I look at map of Ontario, you can draw a line roughly from Cobourg along Highway 401 west up to Barrie, then south again around Toronto to St Catharines and around the Niagara Peninsula. Within that area, generally speaking, I bet you would not have too much difficulty banking. You could single out areas such as Ottawa, London, Windsor and St Thomas; those communities, I am sure, can adequately supply the needs of their citizens.

But when you look at the map of Ontario, you see the great big white areas with little tiny black dots all over the place. The government cannot service those people the way they expect to be if it is going to keep raising the gas prices. I say to that rascal member for Mississauga West (Mr Mahoney) that I watched with glee as he banged his desk when the Treasurer announced the payroll tax. I want him to now start going across Ontario and get his picture in a nice fancy magazine and let him try to explain to all those fine businesses how and why he supports that increase. And now we have the huge increase in gasoline tax. That just deters more people from driving their vehicles. We should be trying to implement a situation so that people can do their banking in their own little local community.

**Mr Mahoney:** To that rascal member who just spoke, the honourable sir, the member for Durham East, as a matter of fact I will start right now defending that without any difficulty.

What I find most interesting in speaking in support of the resolution by the member for

Leeds-Grenville is the apparent Conservative Party philosophy of saying, "We have principles, and if you don't like them, we have others."

It is quite clear to me that the members opposite in supporting this resolution are indeed supporting a resolution that is antiprivatization.

**Mr Dietsch:** "What principles do I put on today?"

**Mr Mahoney:** That is right; they seem to change with the wind, even though I think that for a very unusual moment the member for Leeds-Grenville has obviously come to his senses. I must point out to the member for Durham East, who said he could not remember the banks campaigning for him in the last election, and I want you to know, Mr Speaker, that in his campaign literature—he is not dumb—he had himself standing beside a gentleman we all know and love in this House, the Premier (Mr Peterson). It drove his colleagues wild. They said, "What is a Conservative member doing campaigning with literature with the Premier on the front page?" He actually had the common sense to put the Premier's picture in his literature. To me, that showed he really is a closet Liberal, who would really rather be on this side of the House. It is actually further proof of that this morning that the member for Durham East is supporting this almost left-of-centre resolution by the slightly right-of-centre member for Leeds-Grenville.

Having said that, I want to congratulate both members for showing such common sense, because this is clearly not simply a small-town issue. In fact, I totally agree—and not very often do I agree—with the federal member, the honourable Don Blenkarn, who is chairman of the federal standing committee on finance, trade and economic affairs in Ottawa. Mr Blenkarn, members will recall, has led some rather vociferous—he tends to be vociferous at the best of times—attacks against the banking institutions for some of their activities. I think he was quite correct and quite appropriate in doing that, in most instances. I would say that if this resolution were to be supported, clearly this would provide some better competition to those large banking institutions that the member was referring to with their towers in downtown Toronto. It would provide an opportunity for the people in the rural communities of this province to have better access to what really is a tremendous service.

**1050**

I was interested in reading in the Toronto Star an article by Conrad Yakabuski, who says, "It no doubt comes as a surprise to most Ontarians, who

are unaware that their government even owns a bank...." It may be a quasi-bank. It is not in the lending business, but it still provides financial services to the people in those rural communities. He goes on to say that "The Province of Ontario Savings Office would begin offering GICs"—guaranteed investment certificates—"and would add to its current 21 branches. It indicated the government wants more people to know about this rather unique financial institution."

I would say that the resolution of the member opposite will indeed accomplish that and will allow for more people in the province to realize that we are very competitive. I believe the interest rate, as the parliamentary assistant has informed me, for GICs at the POSO institutions is 11.6 per cent, which is extremely generous and very competitive with the trust companies. I should point out, though, particularly to the members in the Conservative Party, who are always so concerned with privatization, with the philosophy that Conservative governments around the world are espousing. In England Margaret Thatcher is even talking about privatizing the building of roads and putting up toll booths—actually putting it out to the private sector. Normally the Conservative Party, and particularly the member for Leeds-Grenville, is one to expound upon the merits of doing that, but I would point out that Randall Chan, a spokesman for the Canadian Bankers' Association, has stated that the POSO operation, as a government agency, is not subject to income or capital taxes, nor is it required to deposit cash reserves with the Bank of Canada, or anywhere else, for that matter. The trust companies, of course, are equally upset. It is pretty easy to understand why they do not think that the government should be competing with them to deliver services.

In reality, you see, I think that is the difference. I think our friends on the extreme left of the political spectrum would rather the government take over banking and auto insurance and just about any other private operation that you can think of. The people on the right of the political spectrum, of course, think that the private sector should just be allowed to run amok, which it has been doing in some instances. It takes a calm, reasonable Liberal—large, capital L Liberal—position to realize that there must be a balance in society; to realize that we cannot simply leave it to the hawkish members of the business community to go out and provide services. Yet, on the other hand, we should not leave it to the bureaucracy that can accompany any kind of a government operation.

Quite clearly, I very much believe, as the small business advocate, that the private sector can generally do it better than government, regardless of what it is, but I also believe that the government must offer a certain tempering to that type of facility. Quite surprisingly, the member for Leeds-Grenville obviously agrees with me on that.

I think it should also be clear that it is not simply an issue for the small communities, because many people in the larger communities, of course, tend to take vacations in those beautiful smaller communities, tend to own property in those communities, and so they would like to have the facilities. Actually I quite agree that it would be very beneficial if the banks would put in the machines that are so prevalent in this community, in the Toronto area. Certainly in Mississauga, there is a bank machine on every corner. It is very convenient.

I think it would be helpful, if this government continues, along with the Treasurer, its very aggressive attitude towards the savings offices in the small communities, maybe we will force the large banks and the trust companies to become a little more competitive and perhaps offer some services. Whether they are part-time or full-time services, they could at least offer some services in those communities that would then accommodate not only the all-year-round, full-time residents of those communities but also the summer residents, the vacationing residents and the students who in many cases go to those communities to find part-time work in the summertime. Perhaps they spend the summer at the cottage or the summer home, whereas they live in the larger city. If they go there, they would like to have a savings office where they could deposit their money.

Clearly, this resolution, as shocking as it is coming from the member, is a resolution that is worthy of support. I know the member has saved about seven minutes for his final wrapup, which appears to be what we have left in this hour, so I will just say that I am delighted, in this instance, one of the few times, to support the member for Leeds-Grenville in his resolution.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr M. C. Ray):** The time remaining permits only the member for Leeds-Grenville to give his wrapup.

**Mr Runciman:** If no one has any objection, the member for Hastings-Peterborough asked for two minutes. Can I allocate two minutes of that time to him?

**The Acting Speaker:** Not without unanimous consent. It would revert back to the opposition in rotation.

**Some hon members:** Agreed.

Agreed to.

**Mr Pollock:** I would like to thank the member for Leeds-Grenville for giving me a couple of minutes of his time.

I might say that I certainly support his resolution. I do not have quite the same problem that he has. I have a municipality which did not lose a bank; it has just been lobbying for a bank for quite some time. That is the municipality of Coe Hill. The good citizens of Coe Hill have been trying to get a bank there for quite some time. It would be a plus to have any outlet, and I am sure they would welcome the Province of Ontario Savings Office.

Coe Hill is actually about 35 kilometres from Bancroft, which has the nearest banking facility in the one area. On the other side, they are about 30 kilometres from Apsley. It is quite a distance for those people to travel to actually get banking services. There are senior citizens in the Coe Hill area. Also, Coe Hill is a tourist town. There are some lakes around there, like Wollaston Lake. This would be a plus for the tourist industry, too.

As I say, I am supporting the resolution of the member for Leeds-Grenville, and I hope all members of this House would join with him in that respect.

**The Acting Speaker:** Now, the member for Leeds-Grenville to wrap up the debate.

**Mr Runciman:** I want to thank my colleagues from all parties for their comments. I qualify that somewhat in respect of the comments from the member for Mississauga West. As the small business advocate for that government, it is somewhat scary to hear the sort of anti-private-sector diatribe that spewed forth a few moments ago. I think that certainly with respect to small business the budget is not receiving any accolades, so obviously the advocate was not having a great deal of influence in that sector in the development of the budget.

I do take exception with respect to my sharing his view of the role of the Province of Ontario Savings Office. He has a much larger mandate in mind. I look at it as primarily serving in areas where the chartered banks and trust companies are not playing an active role and are not prepared to play an active role.

I share the concerns here in respect of chartered banks in this province and this country. They have operated in a very protected environment. Seemingly, in areas such as small communities in rural Ontario they are not prepared to make that kind of sacrifice. They are not

prepared to make that kind of commitment to this province or this country.

I share the views of my colleague the member for Durham East (Mr Cureatz). I have no reservations whatsoever about criticizing the actions or inactions of chartered banks and their commitment to the small rural communities in this country. I just do not think they have done the job. I think they are obviously not prepared to do the job, and this is an area where the provincial government can fill that void, can provide that very much needed service.

**1100**

I want to thank the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere for his comments as well. He was very enlightening with respect to the history of POSO. It was interesting to note that Harry Nixon, the father of the current Treasurer, was a member of the United Farmers of Ontario. I was not aware of that. Someone suggested we now know that the current Treasurer was the offspring of a UFO. That might explain in some people's minds why on occasion he may seem spaced out or from some other planet. In any event, we very much appreciate that information.

I want to talk very briefly in the few minutes I have left. Again, the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere mentioned that one element of the original mandate of POSO was the promotion and development of agriculture. I think that ties in very nicely with the message I am attempting to deliver here today. This is an area that is certainly in need of this kind of service.

We can look at a host of other areas. We are especially trying to keep seniors in their homes for many more years than has been the case in the past. We are looking at the Victorian Order of Nurses, we are looking at Red Cross homemaker services, a host of services—repairs to their homes, having individuals available to live in their homes and so on—to assist them in remaining in their homes. Those kinds of programs are out there. They are available through all three levels of government.

This is another kind of service that can be provided, I suggest, in very innovative ways. We do not have to look at large banking facilities. They can operate out of grocery stores or hardware stores, similar to post office branches and agency stores for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, that kind of operation, in a very innovative way.

The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere mentioned two new branches, Sudbury and Thunder Bay, and talked about satellites developing off of them. We already have a branch in Ottawa with

respect to eastern Ontario. I have not heard of any discussion with respect to the development of satellites from the Ottawa branch for that part of eastern Ontario. I would think that Kingston—and the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr Keyes) is here this morning—would be very supportive of the establishment of a branch of POSO in Kingston.

**Mr Keyes:** No, on Wolfe Island. The big banks pulled out.

**Mr Runciman:** Or Wolfe Island. Kingston indeed could serve as the base for satellites on Wolfe Island, in Lyndhurst or North Augusta or areas surrounding his area, my area or that of the member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr South). We would all welcome this kind of expansion of services provided by the Province of Ontario Savings Office.

I want to encourage the members of the government especially to bend the arm of the Minister of Revenue to ensure that he gets the message from this resolution that those of us representing eastern Ontario want to see this go forward. We want to see it developed in a very meaningful way in the next couple of years, not simply that this resolution is going to be passed and then go to the shelves and remain there for ever and a day. We want to see some meaningful action and we are optimistic and hopeful, based on the responses I have heard today, that this indeed it is going to occur.

I want to thank all members of the House again for their supportive comments today.

### HOME CARE

Mr Matrundola moved resolution 9:

That, in the opinion of this House, recognizing the benefit of having the elderly, disabled and chronically ill remain in their own homes, the government of Ontario should establish a framework to allow for the relatives of frail elderly, chronically ill and disabled persons to care for them at home, where mutually agreeable and medically possible, by compensating the care giver at the same rate as qualified homemakers, and that the government of Canada be urged to allow the care giver to maintain Canada pension plan and unemployment insurance contributions.

**The Acting Speaker:** I remind the member that he has 20 minutes for his presentation and may reserve any portion thereof for a wrapup.

**Mr Matrundola:** Dignity, compassion, choice and quality care as well as saving the taxpayers of Ontario a considerable amount of money—that is what this resolution is all about: allowing our elderly, ill and disabled citizens to live in dignity

with compassion and a choice of the type of quality health care they need, desire and deserve.

We all seem to agree that it is much more cost-effective to have people remain in their own homes rather than go into institutions, but we should also be looking beyond costs. We should be looking to humanity and dignity for the people who built this province. It is often better to be cared for in a familiar environment by someone you know and trust. It can also be more therapeutic, especially when a care giver cares about and loves the patient.

It is obviously not possible in every circumstance. Indeed, in many circumstances there may not be a relative available or healthy enough to provide the needed care. Also, they may not be able to afford the reduction in income for the person to leave work and provide the care.

However, there are some people who are already doing this and suffering tremendous financial hardship. In my time as a member of this Legislature and even before, I have met a number of loving, dedicated people, some of whom are in the gallery here today and who are providing these services to their loved ones at a tremendous personal cost.

A constituent of mine, Mrs Nardone, was forced to leave her factory work because after working all day she would come home at night to take care of her husband Alex. She would spend most of the night caring for him and would get very little sleep. At work the next day she would be too tired to concentrate and could easily hurt herself on the machinery. Finally, she could not continue to risk her own health through this pattern and was forced to choose between her job and her husband.

She decided to stay home to take care of her husband and is now relying on his disability pension only. If she is never able to return to work, she will not have contributed to the Canada pension plan. If she is able to return to work, she will not have contributed to unemployment insurance during this period and will not have an income while she is looking for work.

We have other examples here. Ms Arena was looking after her parents. Another woman I am familiar with, Mrs Allen, is also in the gallery. She is unable to work because her mother needs around-the-clock care but does not have to be in a hospital. Her mother would not stay in an institution and she does not want to have her mother in an institution. She has been taking care of her mother by herself for 10 years or more.

These people are caring, compassionate people. After years of love and companionship, they cannot bring themselves to put their spouse, parent or child in an institution. Even if they wanted to, we do not have enough institutional beds for all these people.

Another woman, Mrs Harrison, who is also in the gallery, wrote:

"I desperately want to keep my husband at home—in his own environment—where he receives exceptional care, love and comfort on a one-to-one basis, and in so doing, save the taxpayers millions of dollars.

"As things stand now, we (the care givers) feel victimized, are subjected to incredible indignity and insensitivity, and are grandly ignored.

"It is a great service we are rendering to our society, one done with a great deal of love and compassion. I can assure you that it is feasible only if the care givers receive financial assistance from both the federal and provincial governments."

Mrs Harrison gave up her job as a teacher in order to look after her husband, who has Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. The money they have saved for their retirement is quickly being used up. She will have very little, if anything, left for herself.

Of course, our government does have a number of home care programs. The integrated homemaker program through the Ministry of Community and Social Services; the Ministry of Health's home care program, workers' compensation and some municipalities all offer one type or another of home care services.

However, while these programs are constantly being expanded, there is still a very large shortage between what is being offered and what is being requested and needed. Some of this is due to the funding limitations and some of it is due to the problem of finding people willing to do home care work.

The ministries of Health and Community and Social Services are doing their best to come to terms with these problems. They are both working very hard at finding alternatives to institutionalizing people and they are planning new ways to move care back into the home and the community. But the numbers are so large that it is not something that we can solve overnight.

Canada and Ontario in particular have one of the highest rates of institutionalization in the world. In a study done in the late 1970s, 7.5 per cent of Canadians over 65 were in long-term institutional care, a rate surpassed only by Sweden and Holland. Within Canada, Ontario

had the third highest rate, behind only Manitoba and Alberta.

Currently, 10.5 per cent of our population is over the age of 65, and between 1983 and 2001 this number is expected to increase by 55 per cent, compared to an overall growth of 16 per cent. Furthermore, by the year 2006 the number of people over the age of 85 is expected to increase by 117 per cent. Although this statistic is very good news, because we all are going to live longer, these numbers are quite staggering and will put more pressure on our entire health care system.

A consultant's report last year found that half of the residents in our institutions required less than the amount of care that was being provided there. They felt that these people could return to their homes if the support services were in place. This is one way of providing some of the support services.

The National Advisory Council on Aging in 1986 found that home care costs only 11 per cent to 14 per cent of institutional care.

As I said, the government is already doing a great deal in this area. In 1987-88, we spent \$80 million on homemaking services, and this is expected to increase to \$140 million by the year 1990-91. The Ministry of Health recently released an operational review of its home care program. The review showed that the home care program cost \$245 million in 1987-88, but it probably saved \$1.8 billion in capital costs and \$773 million annually in operating costs.

Even though in yesterday's budget the home care program was increased to \$349 million, it still does not address our problem. What this resolution proposes is another step along this road.

Our concern, however, should not be just with money but with how people want to live. A number of agencies have looked into this area. In 1985, the United Senior Citizens of Ontario asked the elderly what type of housing they would want, if they had difficulty caring for their own needs: 57 per cent said that they would want to stay at home with community services to assist them, 16 per cent that they would like to move in with family members and 3 per cent that they would like to move in with friends.

The ethnic makeup of our province brings with it other concerns. The West Toronto Support Services Italian Outreach Project did a study which found that older members of the Italian community will not accept help from strangers but will accept help from family members. They do not feel comfortable having strangers come

into their own homes to care for them. I would like to add that this is not only with the people of Italian descent; it is also very frequent with people of other communities, of other descent and ethnic origins.

The Federation of Italian Canadian Seniors looked at health care requirements of Italian seniors and found that 30 per cent of them were unaware of the programs available to them and that over 90 per cent said they would prefer to remain in their own homes with assistance.

In the past, it was natural for a wife who did not work to look after parents or children. Today, with more women entering the workforce and the reliance on two incomes, as well as cultural changes, these people are not available to look after their parents without assistance.

Moreover, there is an acute shortage of trained homemakers in the province. The Interministerial Committee on Visiting Homemakers felt that there would be a need to train between 1,700 and 4,700 new homemakers in 1988-89, depending on how heavily the government gets involved, and this will continue to increase.

Due to low pay and demanding work, it is getting increasingly hard to find people to do the work. The Homemakers and Nurses Service Act defines homemaking services as: child care when parents are incapacitated; meal planning, preparation and marketing, including special diets; light, heavy and seasonal cleaning; light laundry and essential mending; personal care and hygiene, and bedside care but not nursing care.

As you can expect, it is not always easy to find someone to do this type of work at the relatively low wages with the compassion and concern that is needed. We may find younger people willing to be homemakers while they look for some other type of employment; but after a short time, they tend to leave the business, because they can find other jobs that pay a lot better and are also less demanding.

I feel we need mature, dedicated, caring and compassionate people who will cater to the personal needs of the individual, such as the people we have here in the gallery today. That is what we need. Of course, there is a shortage of this type of person. But the people that this resolution will support may continue this type of work outside of the home, and these people, who know and care about the work, could make excellent homemakers for other people as well.

**1120**

The concept of relatives acting as care givers and being compensated for it is not a unique one. In New Zealand, a benefit is paid to those caring

for elderly persons on a full-time basis. In Norway, some municipalities provide what they call "nursing pay" when elderly people are cared for at home. In Finland, a home care allowance is given to the elderly person to hire someone to care for him.

Currently, there is a three-week home training support program, with other courses available through community colleges. The people who would qualify under this resolution could either take the course or be examined to ensure they know what is necessary.

However, you can be sure that while hired homemakers do their very best at their jobs, care givers looking after relatives are going to provide more and better care in most cases.

The last part of the resolution deals with the Canada pension plan and unemployment insurance. If someone leaves work to provide these services, when the ill person passes away, recuperates or has to be hospitalized, the care giver is often emotionally and physically drained. They have also not contributed to these plans and have nothing to draw from.

If they had paid unemployment insurance contributions, they would be able to collect the benefits while looking for a job, and if they had continued their CPP contributions, they would have more to draw on at retirement. Many care givers acknowledge these changes alone would be of great assistance to them. We would also have mature, compassionate and experienced homemakers who would be able to assist other patients in the home care program.

While this program would cost money, I feel it would be well spent and would save money over the long term. It would not apply to everyone who needs home care. It would have to be acceptable to both the patient and the potential care giver, which would limit the takeup of the program. As well, it could apply mainly to people who have been working and would be giving up some income to provide this service. By only paying them up to the rate of a homemaker, you are further limiting it because many people would be unwilling or unable to take that drastic a reduction in salary. But if they opted for this, it would at least help them pay for groceries and other necessities.

People suffering from many diseases, including Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, need around-the-clock care. If they are left alone, they can do harm to themselves, or they may need to be turned over in bed regularly, have dressings changed or medication given. They also need consistency in the people who are caring for them

and need people who understand them as well as the disease.

Care givers are able to do this, and of course would not expect to be paid for 24 hours of work. The resolution contemplates compensating them for a regular workweek, although it is clear the job is not a nine-to-five job. They could sign an employment contract with the government or a homemaking agency that would last until the patient recovered, had to be hospitalized or passed away. At the end of this time, depending on their age, they would be eligible for unemployment insurance while they looked for a job, or could collect their pension.

I feel I was elected to help make decisions that will better the lives of the citizens of Ontario. That is what I am trying to do with this resolution. The elderly are the people who built this country and this province in particular. We must treat them, as well as the disabled and ill, with the dignity and respect they deserve. We must work to ensure their days are as comfortable as possible, and passing this resolution would be one small step in that direction.

**Ms Bryden:** The member for Willowdale is doing a service to the Legislature by alerting the public to the desperate shortage of homemaker services. It is vital to avoid institutionalization of seniors when simple services provided by homemakers are not available. People in hospitals cannot be discharged, even though they no longer need acute care, when homemaker services are not adequate.

I can sympathize with those people who have the responsibility for a frail, elderly person, a handicapped child or a person who is developmentally retarded. I think the resolution is really an indictment of one of the greatest failures of the Liberal government that he supports, because after almost four years in government it has not brought the promised integrated home care program beyond the pilot project stage.

They have not fulfilled the pledge their leader the Premier (Mr Peterson) signed with the New Democratic Party leader, the member for York South (Mr B. Rae), in the 1985 NDP-Liberal accord that brought this government to power by mutual agreement on certain policies.

Let me quote to members what the May 1985 accord said. The pledge was "Reform of services for the elderly to provide alternatives to institutional care, and a reform of the present nursing home licensing and inspection system." This pledge cannot be fulfilled without a province-wide integrated homemaker program.

Instead of moving ahead on this program to make it province-wide, we are actually going backwards. The whole program has been put in jeopardy by the terrible shortage of homemakers, because the wages are so low that private care givers cannot find employees willing to undertake this essential but difficult work with the sick and elderly.

Nonprofit care givers like the Victorian Order of Nurses and the Red Cross are in the same position, as the government grants from the province and the municipalities are inadequate to cover the costs today. The VON and the Red Cross did get the government belatedly to bail them out on the big deficits they were running, but it still does not meet the need for future care by these nonprofit bodies.

They have not solved the problem. In fact, they have frozen expansion of the whole homemaker program as of last September. This is probably what motivated the member for Willowdale to bring in this alternative proposal. I think we should look at any suggestions for ways to meet the homemaker crisis and help people who have a responsibility for family members who need extra services.

We know the number of family members who can help in the home with frail, elderly or disabled persons is shrinking, because more and more women particularly and both members of any family are having to take at least part-time or shift work to cover the high cost of living and housing, not to mention the higher regressive taxes imposed on them at the provincial level.

I intend to vote for the resolution with the rider that the whole question of providing adequate homemaker services across the province be studied by the government or a committee of the Legislature. This proposal under my rider should be considered only as one of many measures that might be looked at. It should possibly be considered as an emergency program for areas where homemaker services in either the public or the private sector are not adequate. It should not be considered a substitute for faster implementation of the government's promises to improve and extend home care services of all kinds. It should not justify the continuation of the freeze on expansion of homemaker services, which I understand is still in effect.

**1130**

Yesterday's budget does not hold out too much hope that the government will meet its obligation to provide adequate home care and homemaker services. I think there is \$55 million in that budget for the next fiscal year that is supposed to

cover a wide diversity of services in the home for the thousands of frail elderly, the developmentally handicapped, the sick, the physically handicapped and all the people who need that little extra service to enable them to stay in their own homes and to save the province the tremendous costs of institutionalizing these people, which I think are at least four or five times as much as the cost of home care and homemaker services.

It would also mean a lot to the government in savings in hospital bed costs, bed shortages and postponed surgery if more people in these categories who do not need acute care could be moved out of the hospitals into their own homes or group homes.

Unfortunately, the budget does not contain a strong commitment to the goal of providing and expanding adequate homemaker services. That is where I think the member for Willowdale should be directing his attention, to his own government, as to why in almost four years in power it has not achieved this very important and essential service of homemakers for all kinds of people who need those services.

I hope this resolution is a matter of putting pressure on the Liberal government to get on with its commitments about providing adequate homemaker services through both the public and the private sectors, with grants to private social service agencies in some cases and with public hospitals providing services through outpatient arrangements.

I think we should not consider this as a solution to the problem but as something that should be investigated in areas where homemaker services are not available, under very strict rules of course as to who would qualify and how much supervision there would be of the kind of care they give, the hours they provide it for and other matters of that sort. It should not just be an open-ended grant that somebody could apply for without having to go through certain requirements that would be part of any program for such emergency services.

**Mrs Cunningham:** I would like to begin by congratulating the member for Willowdale for the resolution he has put before the House, and more important, for the tremendous amount of research he put into this particular concern he has.

It is an area I have had to research quite extensively as well, given that my critic position is for the Ministry of Community and Social Services. So the concerns he has raised in his resolution are not new to myself and obviously are not new at all to the member for Beaches-

Woodbine, who has also been sharing that critic portfolio with me.

On a number of occasions in the last year, we have asked questions in the House and I have spent literally hours in estimates asking questions of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney) and some of our colleagues have asked questions of the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan) with regard to extended care legislation, with regard to all aspects of home care, with regard to assistance for the disabled and with regard to special-services-at-home programs for children. All of them have to do with a changing society and all of them have to do with families that truly want to keep their special family members in their own homes.

I was most interested to hear the information the member for Willowdale presented to this House today with regard to how many people wanted to remain in their own homes and how many people wanted to remain with their families. I think that is indicative of all of us. That would be our first choice.

Given that observation, the Liberal government made it one of its strong election promises, quite frankly, to extend the integrated homemaker program from some 18 centres to some 36 or 38 in the next couple of years. In fact, that promise should have been fulfilled at this time. What we have witnessed is no extension and we are very concerned about that. I know there are a lot of reasons for it, but I think the member for Willowdale is representing his constituents well by raising this very real concern.

The future trends he talked about are those all of us know about, which is that this problem is going to become a bigger one. I should not use the word "problem," really; it is more a challenge. It is going to become a bigger one, as we are so successful in keeping people healthy for a longer period of time and in assisting in prevention.

I think one of the greatest concerns has been the deinstitutionalization challenge this government faces and the promises, again, that were made by the government to families: "If you can and are able to maintain your special family members, whether they be children or adults, in their own home, we will help you." I have been very much involved in programs in my riding in London and across the province. I frequently talk to groups of parents of special children, many of whom are extremely disabled.

I share the member's real picture he painted of the families that are so tired after being up most evenings with an ill family member, whether it

be a young person or an elderly person, so physically and so mentally exhausted. The parents advised us that they did not have a choice after a period of time. In fact, young mothers were having to make a very big family decision that affected other children in the family; that is, that in these very tough economic times, and I am talking about economic times for families, with the cost of housing—everyone's dream still is to own a home, I hope—and with the increased taxes we looked at again just yesterday, there are challenges in maintaining a lifestyle, especially for young families. These young mothers are choosing to stay home with their young children and they will be there for as long as they can be.

I think the saddest issue I have faced in the last couple of months has been that those very families we chatted with some two and three years ago are now making decisions and asking for institutionalization, in a sense. Basically, they are looking for group homes and they are on very long waiting lists.

We have had some four or five press conferences in this building in the last six weeks by groups advising us about the lack of care for disabled people in their own homes, about the lack of housing, about the lack of homemaker services and about the lack of special-services-at-home programs.

I suppose my greatest concern with the motion will be that if we cannot do it now, where will we get the money to pay for it? Or is it going to be a priority of this government? Hopefully, we will be looking today at the statement by the Minister of Community and Social Services. Perhaps as he responds to Transitions he will also respond in some way to the concerns the member for Willowdale has raised for us today.

**1140**

As far as remuneration for family members is concerned, in my opinion I do not think you could ever remunerate family members who have chosen to stay home to take care of their elderly or their young disabled family members. So many of us, myself included, have this challenge in our own homes. I personally know what it is all about. As we look around us, many more elderly people are taking care of their elderly husbands, family members and neighbours who have become members of their family. I think it is because of the community we all live in. We still do care. We care a lot about our own families and our own communities. I hope we never lose it.

I am not sure what to do with the private member's resolution. I certainly support his objective, and that is establishing a framework. I

would have expected that he might have added—and I ask the question—disabled children. These are questions for the member. He might want to respond. Does this mean we allow mothers to stay home and mind their children, as they do in other countries, and are given an allowance to stay home? Is that something we should be looking at? Should we also be looking at paying the young mothers and fathers of disabled children to stay home because they are truly exhausted?

Do we look at paying people just to take care of their own relatives or can we also pay them for taking care of their elderly neighbours who in fact are basically extended family members in these times? Many of us were able to grow up in the same city and in the same neighbourhood as our relatives. Most of us have moved away from our home and we look to our neighbours and friends as our extended families.

In these times I think we should be looking seriously at the resolution of the member for Willowdale. I think the future trends are rather frightening in the sense that we are not caring right now for the people we have promised to care for. I would ask the member for Willowdale to respond to this. How much more pressure can we put on this government to make this area of concern a real priority?

In this very large province only 14,000 families a month are dealt with in the integrated homemaker program. Do members know the average amount of relief time families get? It is four hours a week. Are we going to pay the people who stay home with their own family members for four hours a week? That is all the help most of the integrated homemaker programs are allowing for the majority of families. For special services at home, the average amount of time per month is something like 10 hours. Is that the number of hours we should be supporting family members? This is a very large question.

I agree with the member's comments on unemployment insurance and the pension plan and I think we should be looking at those kinds of remuneration or support for family members in another arena immediately.

I hope that this motion can be dealt with in some way, either at committee or in this House, but I think we have very many questions. I congratulate the member for bringing this to our attention.

**Mr Keyes:** I rise too with a great deal of admiration for the member for Willowdale for the work he has done in bringing forward this resolution. What he has said today in a very

impassioned way truly shows his caring for people who are, as he has described in his resolution, the elderly, the disabled and the chronically ill. I would suggest to the member for London North (Mrs Cunningham) that I see his resolution somewhat encompassing all those situations where families—and I can think of many too on a personal level—have looked after their physically and mentally handicapped members from birth right through until the end.

In beginning, I want to sincerely congratulate the member for Willowdale, because he has in a number of instances talked about the need for the dignity, the compassion, the love for family members and I think that is so important as we deal with this situation. I appreciate very much the spirit in which he has put forth the resolution, because it is born out of compassion, the sincerity of his heart and a sense of fairness. Also, he has given us several personal examples.

I too can attest to those personal examples. I go back and think of the family farm on Wolfe Island, which has had five generations of people in it, and in each succeeding generation, one of the members of the family has looked after the frail elderly. I remember personally as my mother looked after my grandmother in the home as she became elderly, and in her 90s eventually feeble. I remember well being at her bedside when she passed away.

That mother of mine is now in much better health, shall we say, but at 91 years of age is reaching a point in time when we too must face the fact that she has served well on this earth but some day her time will come. She too is being looked after by members of the family living in that same home, and probably the same thing will happen in the next generation as we continue in that way, so I appreciate fully what the member is doing.

However, there are concerns about the resolution and the way it is framed. It needs a great deal of work on it in order to tidy it up. It is simply too open and is not as comprehensive as it should be. It has the potential in its current form of compromising to some extent the current Ministry of Health and Ministry of Community and Social Services standards of care that we have been so careful to develop. It needs a great structure in order to administer this, and it certainly has the potential of being subject to abuse.

It is very difficult to legislate the concept that the member for Willowdale is putting forward and what he supports, because as we try to keep our members of the family in their homes for

longer periods of time and out of institutions, we must encourage this family support and recognize the love and the care that is provided in those situations. It is impossible for us to put a price on that type of support.

The Ministry of Health is concentrating its efforts—and likewise those of the Ministry of Community and Social Services—on improving the quality, the availability and the efficiency of its health services. At the same time, we are trying to ensure that they are well managed and they are fairly and reasonably funded. We encourage any suggestions of innovative ways such as this of providing health services. In fact, we do provide some of these very same types of services now on a pilot project basis.

Home care is available province-wide. We have 38 programs in operation; 29 of those 38 programs are run by boards of health. I will gladly give members my statistics. Others are sponsored by the Victorian Order of Nurses, public hospitals and a regional social services department. The very largest, here in Metropolitan Toronto, has its own autonomous board. We fund these local services fully through our annual program budgets.

Again, the member for Willowdale did an excellent job in his statistics of the moneys that have been spent, the moneys that are projected and the demographics of this province, which is one of the greatest challenges facing our whole health care system. As members know, under the Ministry of Health our home care services include nursing, homemaking, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, social work, nutrition counselling, respiratory technologists and enterostomal therapists. Our goal is to avoid or delay institutional admission, to reduce the length of stay in any of our institutions and facilitate earlier discharge from the hospital or other facility.

Home care originally focused on short-term care for acute illness, but in the 1970s chronic care pilot projects began. All of our 38 local programs today include both acute and chronic home care and the role is steadily expanding.

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We now have school support services under home care. Home care agencies also administer a new home program that has been established in several pilot areas, providing housekeeping and similar services so that we do allow the frail elderly and the physically disabled to remain in their own homes, as the member has requested. While this is a social service, rather than a medically oriented program, we recognize the

benefits of common case management and the convenience of access for the client.

Looking at the growth of this, we know that in 1987-88 we served some 610,000 people in this province, more than double the numbers we accommodated six years ago. During that same period of time, we more than tripled the money spent in that area. To give members a quick idea, in 1984-85 we spent \$104.5 million. In 1985-86, the first year we took office, we increased that almost 50 per cent to \$153 million and the following year to \$201 million. In 1987-88 it was \$245 million. This year, in the budget of yesterday, \$349 million will go towards home care assistance, an increase of 25 per cent over last year.

In the budget of yesterday, 75 per cent of all the new expenditures are devoted towards the individual, to education, to health and to housing. It is individual and people oriented. We are also spending \$108 million for community mental health programs, an increase of 30 per cent and an increase of another 17-plus per cent for alcohol and drug dependency.

When it comes to the Ministry of Community and Social Services, as we know from yesterday's budget, there is an increase of 20 per cent to \$2.3 billion in the coming year.

One of the main aspects of our home care program must be that we have quality control, supervision, fiscal accountability, monitoring of effective and efficient provision of services and appropriate types and amounts of services as the needs change.

Homemaking issues fall within the jurisdiction of both the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health, but basically for homemaking our services are medically oriented. They have the capacity at the moment to direct funds to families. While this proposal before us today may be contemplated in terms of some of the home services currently provided, we must ensure that medical treatment and professional services provided by the Ministry of Health are not compromised in planning an efficient and well managed health care system.

While I cannot support the honourable member's resolution in its current form, we have heard expressed today on all sides of this House support for the concept of trying to provide kindly, compassionate, loving care for the frail elderly, the chronically ill and the disabled. No one can really oppose that concept.

However, I must say again that in the context of looking at a comprehensive, well planned, co-ordinated program in homemaking, we must

continue with the progress we are making, increasing on an annual basis, and in this year by as much as 25 per cent again, the moneys that we provide so that all our persons can live in dignity with the compassion of their fellow members.

**Mr Allen:** I want to rise and address a few remarks to the resolution of the member for Willowdale which I thought was sensitively framed and well researched. Certainly his comments about the families he knows to whom this is addressed were very touching and moving.

At the same time, I want to say that I have some major concerns with the resolution. While I am not at all closed to the notion of moving in some respects in this direction, I will be voting against the resolution and certainly not for any hard-hearted reason. I do believe that the direction in which this province has been moving towards an integrated homemaker program is, in fact, the direction we have to take with respect to the support of families who so badly need the backup in dealing with members of their families who are disabled frail elderly in their attempt to keep them in their own homes or to maintain the elderly in their own individual places of residence.

What I am, unfortunately, struck by as I confront that proposition is that on 3 September, the Premier had a very specific proposal to make at that point in time, which was that in the course of the subsequent three years after the election, his government would be moving to complete the program of 38 centres providing integrated homemaker services—namely, homemaking, home care and meals availability to those families and those persons.

Yet, today, we have not moved beyond the number of instances where those homemaking services were in place. Eighteen was the number that we had chalked up at that point in time; 18 it is today. As of December of that same year, the assistant deputy minister of the community services division of the Ministry of Community and Social Services was writing to his field workers saying that he regretted the premature capping of this new program before it had become well established and mature.

By the next June, the minister received a large report, the triministerial committee's report on homemaking services, which said directly to him what he needed to do with respect to addressing the crisis in homemaking that had begun to afflict this province. He was told that the question of low wages, the problem of lack of training and the problem of lack of benefits were critical to the

problems of maintaining an adequate service out there for families.

He said that he would be addressing those problems within the next month. We have yet to receive an announcement as to how he plans to move ahead with respect to the integrated homemaker program, which has been in a state of relative disarray now for months and months on end, to the point where this last January the major deliverer of that service, the Red Cross, and a number of other agencies indicated they could no longer stand to rack up deficits to the tune of almost \$2 million in the course of the past year's operations and that they had to have some kind of relief or else they were going out of business.

That is how serious a situation the support of families and homes and individuals trying to keep seniors at home was in at the beginning of this year. So I find myself a little bit betwixt and between with respect to the member's resolution, because while I understand and sympathize with the compassionate grounds upon which he is proposing it, I in no way want to compromise the major thrust and direction of this province in supporting families in the concerns that he has.

For my money, that means that we cannot give this government any opportunity to abandon, to qualify, or to modify in any respect the major thrust that it has undertaken and promised to this province—namely, that it will expand and complete the integrated homemaker system. When I see that in place and well funded, I will be happy to listen further to the member and to certainly listen very carefully and respond as best I can to the kind of program that he is supporting.

I do not reject any refinements, add-ons or supplements to the integrated homemaker program; far from that, but I want to see an adequate, properly structured, backup system. I know at the present time there are concerns about elder abuse, and one has to recognize the compassion and concern of families who look after the elderly. But we do not have an advocacy system in place.

We do not have an accountability proposal matched in this resolution to make certain that there is no abuse taken of seniors as the government's money is taken in hand in order, ostensibly, to look after senior elderly parents.

**The Speaker:** The member has now run out of time.

**Mr Allen:** I think we need to look at this issue, but I will be opposing it on those grounds.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. The member for Willowdale reserved almost two minutes.

**Mr Matrundola:** I would like to thank all the members who participated in this debate. As I have said before, it is important that we discuss new and innovative ways of assisting the citizens of Ontario. We cannot continue to put all our elderly and disabled people into institutions as we used to do. We cannot afford it economically or humanely.

Who better can provide the care than a relative who cares deeply for the patient? But, very often, those willing to give the care need assistance. We are not talking about the bank president who receives \$100,000 a year or more. We are talking about providing someone with the means to live while they look after their loved ones. Not every elderly, ill or disabled person will take advantage of it, but the cost to do something includes savings to existing support services and institutions, as well as human cost.

As I said previously, we have a responsibility to the citizens of Ontario. I believe in the saying, "The character of a nation is best judged by the rights it extends to its minorities." We owe the people a chance to live in dignity, and this is one way of ensuring that they can.

**The Speaker:** That completes the allotted time for discussion on ballot item 3 and ballot item 4.

## BANKING SERVICES

**The Speaker:** Mr Runciman has moved resolution 5.

Motion agreed to.

## HOME CARE

**The Speaker:** Mr Matrundola has moved resolution 9.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

The House recessed at 1202.

## AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1330.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

## MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**Mr Wildman:** Tough times have hit the Ministry of Natural Resources and the management of resources in northern Ontario. MNR's total budget was cut by three per cent in yesterday's provincial user-pay budget. Natural Resources is the only ministry whose budget has been cut.

As a result of these tough times, budget cuts and so on, morale in the Ministry of Natural Resources district offices has reached an all-time low. Severe constraints and more job losses will hurt morale even more, but this can only be accelerated by this so-called emerging vision for the tough times, 1990s, of MNR.

Ministry staff are reaching the point where they are unable to perform their responsibilities effectively in providing services to the public of Ontario. This new vision is a nightmare for both the permanent and casual employees: they must do more with less. The ministry is becoming a skeleton staff attempting to audit all the programs that have been handed over to the private sector.

MNR has three alternatives for trying to get the job done: contracting out even more of the work to the private sector, using special employment programs and volunteers or making further cuts to management programs and services to the public. This is no way for our natural resources to be treated by this government. The morale in the ministry is terrible and it is getting worse. It is time for the minister to get a hold of his ministry and end the tough times for Natural Resources.

## TIRE TAX

**Mr J. M. Johnson:** I would like to bring to the attention of this House my concern about one small item announced by the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) in his budget yesterday, a \$5 tax that will be charged on the purchase of each new tire. This is not only a very regressive tax, but indeed a measure which could very well impact on the safety of cars on our highways.

As usual, for the wealthy and affluent people this \$5 levy will be of little or no consequence, but for the senior citizens, the young and the low-income people of our province it will be of considerable concern. These are the people who will again be called upon to shoulder this added

burden and, in having to do so, may justifiably be tempted to postpone the purchase of new tires for economic reasons, thereby jeopardizing their own safety and the safety of the motoring public, which is already one of our major problems.

Surely for safety's sake alone the government should be encouraging car owners to make certain that their cars are fitted with the safest tires possible. This tax will discourage car owners from replacing their worn tires and more motorists will be driving with unsafe tires.

Also, this Liberal government is levying tax on tax in this tax initiative. The \$5 tax will be added to the price of the tire and then eight per cent provincial sales tax will be added on: the \$5 then becomes \$5.40. Tax on tax—the Treasurer should be ashamed of his devious tax policies.

## SAINTE-MARIE AMONG THE HURONS

**Mr Black:** I rise today, on behalf of the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr O'Neil), to draw to the attention of the House a milestone in Canadian history, the 350th anniversary of the founding of Sainte-Marie among the Hurons in what is now Midland in my riding of Muskoka-Georgian Bay.

Tomorrow, the Premier (Mr Peterson) and other distinguished guests will take part in the opening of anniversary celebrations. At this launch, a representative of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada will also dedicate Sainte-Marie as a national historic site.

Sainte-Marie was founded in 1639 as a French Jesuit mission. In the 10 years that followed, the priests and their lay helpers lived and worked among the native Huron population of the land we now call Ontario.

During that decade the mission was the largest European community in the interior of North America. When Father Jérôme Lalemant founded Sainte-Marie, he saw it as a place where natives and newcomers could live in harmony, sharing their skills for the benefit of all.

The snowshoe and the canoe, which are still useful today, are just two examples of the native technology that enabled Europeans to survive in the new world. Three and a half centuries later, the ideal of forging a community from many cultures is still held high in our province.

We recognize it quite rightly as the birthplace of Franco-Ontario and on behalf of the Minister of Tourism and Recreation and all of us from Huronia, I invite all the members and their

families to come to Sainte-Marie in the months ahead to share in the celebrations of the 350th anniversary.

### PROPOSED BUILDING SITE

**Mrs Grier:** Yesterday, the Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley) appeared somewhat irritated when I asked him why he had refused to designate an area of Etobicoke's waterfront under the Environmental Assessment Act.

The area in question is 40 acres between the Humber River and the Mimico Creek. Much of the land is vacant and was created by illegal lake filling in the 1960s. There are also a dozen old motels and a couple of taverns.

Camrost Developments Ltd wishes to build Harbourfront West there with condominiums and commercial space. The city of Etobicoke supports Camrost and so apparently does the government of Ontario, which is only natural because Camrost supports the government.

What concerns environmentalists is that the minister has refused to designate a project which will involve massive amounts of lake filling. This lake fill will be placed in an area where sediments are already highly contaminated. According to the city's plan, the lake fill will be used to create public access to the waterfront and public parks.

The minister in effect is exempting a public project from the Environmental Assessment Act. Instead, he has asked for an environmental management master plan. No one knows what that is. There are no criteria, no definitions, no guidelines and, more important, no public hearings, no public participation in a study to determine the extent of public amenities on a contaminated area on Lake Ontario's shoreline. It is a sad day for the environment, for open government and for Etobicoke-Lakeshore.

### TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

**Mr Cousens:** We need to rename the transportation capital program announced in yesterday's budget. A more appropriate title should be tax the travelling consumer program.

This government obviously felt that travelling in and around the greater Toronto area was not being taxed enough, so it decided to levy a gasoline tax, a tire tax, a licence tax and a parking tax. Such an unfair burden on the greater Toronto area is unconscionable.

When will this government realize that the roads and transit systems in the greater Toronto area are the transportation hub of Ontario? When

will they realize that transportation is a core government service?

Yes, we need money and systems in place, but we need more than money; we need a vision. We need a long-term plan that outlines where this province is headed. We need some indication of the future of transportation in Ontario.

This wait and see attitude is a travelling time bomb. Wait and see if the Olympics come. Wait and see if we get Expo. The people of this province, especially in the greater Toronto area, deserve more than to be held hostage to special events and they deserve more than being victim in taxing our troubles away.

It is a sham. We have to do something but right now this government is just playing with our money and not delivering the services we need to get around in this city.

### GREEK-CANADIAN CULTURAL MONTH

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**Mr Faubert:** I rise today to bring to the attention of the House the fact that the Greek community in Toronto is celebrating Greek-Canadian Cultural Month during the month of May.

The energy and enthusiasm of the Hellenic Canadian Congress in bringing this festival to life is to be commended, and many events have been sponsored by the Ministry of Culture—Greece, the General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad, the Consulate General of Greece for Toronto, the Greek Community of Metropolitan Toronto and the Greek-Canadian Associations of Ontario.

The Greek-Canadian community is an active and vital part of the multicultural community in Ontario. The multiculturalism strategy in Ontario says that we celebrate cultural diversity, that we support cultural retention for those who choose it and cultural sharing for all.

Events such as Greek-Canadian Cultural Month are a true reflection of this policy at work. Since the beginning of the month, Greek entertainers have been performing in several Ontario cities including Toronto, Hamilton and London. There have been traditional Greek dramas and dancing. Just yesterday afternoon, the Aristotelis Dance Group from the city of Florina, Greece, was entertaining here in the Legislative Building. This weekend, the festivities will spread to Ottawa, where the Hellenic Canadian Congress will be meeting in convention.

I urge all members to participate as fully as possible in Greek-Canadian Cultural Month and commend its observance to all peoples of

Ontario. In addition, I would like to bring to the attention of all members of this House the presence of the consul general of Greece, consul Vasilis Moutsoglov, who is seated in the members' gallery.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Mr Philip:** Not only is the Liberal government creating increased problems for injured workers through its insistence on the passage of Bill 162, but it is failing miserably to provide adequate community legal services for those injured workers wishing assistance in fighting for their rights under the present act. At the present time, the community information legal service office in Rexdale, with a case load of over 330 cases, has been told that it will have an increase in funding of less than the rate of inflation.

The situation is also complicated in other legal clinics, with cutbacks under the Ontario legal aid plan resulting in legal aid clinics such as the Kensington, Bellwoods, Parkdale and Kingston legal aid services having to reduce the number of law student case workers normally hired during the summer in an effort to deal with the backlog.

**Hon Mrs Wilson:** On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I rise today to announce the appointment of JoAnne Fillimore as the new chairman of the Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens.

**Mr Wildman:** Why didn't you do that as a ministerial statement?

**The Speaker:** Order. With respect to the member, I would suggest that should be a ministerial statement.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

##### SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** I would suggest that my colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr R. F. Johnston) would know what I mean when I say that this is a culmination of 14 years.

It is my privilege to announce today a series of initiatives to reform the social assistance system in this province. In making this announcement, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of all those individuals and organizations who provided their views on the issues and the possibilities for reshaping these essential programs. In particular, I would like to recognize the work of the Social Assistance Review Committee. Their report, *Transitions*, represents a major contribution to the discussion of public policy, not only here in Ontario but in the rest of Canada as well.

It has become increasingly clear, both in the context of the Social Assistance Review and in the overwhelmingly positive response to its findings, that the people of Ontario share our sense of priority as well as the government's commitment to comprehensive reform.

My recent consultation on the committee's report has demonstrated that the concern and desire for reform extends to diverse elements in our communities including business, labour, church groups, the voluntary sector and municipal organizations.

We have paid careful attention to the advice we have received. We have been told that social assistance reform tied to its traditional objective of simply meeting need is insufficient. We have heard that a system that only attempts to meet basic needs is a system that ignores the recipients' hope to move from dependence to autonomy. We have concluded that a reformed social assistance system must recognize society's desire to help the recipient, as *Transitions* puts it, "from exclusion on the margins of society to integration within the mainstream of community life."

In the recent throne speech, the government announced its intention to reform the social assistance system. In yesterday's budget, the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) allocated \$415 million. My purpose today is to provide details of these reforms, which fall into three broad categories: economic independence, benefit adequacy and fairness and simplification.

Under the heading of economic independence, the government has made it clear it is committed to doing a better job of helping social assistance recipients to move into the mainstream. Today, I am announcing a new program initiative, the supports to employment program or STEP. The STEP initiative is comprised of seven separate changes, which will be implemented this fall with a first-year expenditure of \$22 million.

The first reform is the removal of what is known as the 120-hour-per-month rule for single parent recipients. In future, single parents will no longer be arbitrarily limited to working only on a part-time basis as a condition for eligibility.

The second element is the adoption of a net definition of earnings under both family benefits and general welfare assistance. Regulation changes will be made to redefine earned income to exclude payroll deductions for Canada pension, unemployment insurance and income tax.

A third change relates to child care expenses. Perhaps the greatest single impediment to single parents working outside the home is the cost of

child care. I am implementing changes that will allow single parents to deduct child care expenses, up to a specified limit, from their earned income. This means in effect child care expenses will be an additional deduction allowed in order to arrive at the amount of net earnings.

The fourth part centres on basic earnings exemptions. Traditionally, our social assistance program has recognized the requirement for a significant basic exemption on earnings, in order to encourage employment while helping to defray typical work expenses. We will be moving to increase the basic exemptions under both the family benefits and general welfare programs.

A fifth aspect of the STEP initiative will also affect the amount of assistance recipients may retain when they have earnings. Currently, all family benefits recipients are subject to a dollar-for-dollar reduction in allowances for each dollar they earn above a basic level of exempted earnings. Changes will be made to the family benefits and general welfare assistance regulations to equalize all exemption rates, so that all recipients retain 20 per cent of net earnings beyond the basic exemption.

The sixth element of STEP will result in reforms to our treatment of training payments. Our treatment of training income frequently fails to provide any financial incentive to sign up for these programs. Therefore, I will be providing enriched exemptions to training income.

The seventh component is one that will alleviate a problem which is familiar to all members of this House. The issue to which I refer is the dilemma faced when an increase in outside income, whether it be from a pension or earnings, reduces recipients' entitlements to zero. Although they may have sufficient income to get along without social assistance, the loss of their last dollar in social assistance means they also lose their health benefits, such as their drug card.

As part of the STEP initiative, I will be introducing a buffer zone, to enable recipients to retain all their health benefits. This zone continues until their outside income rises to the point where the average recipient is in a position to pay for these benefits himself or herself. I view this as a major breakthrough for low-income persons who, through no fault of their own, are without such coverage today.

Once implemented, the impact of the STEP initiative will be immediate. Some 27,000 social assistance recipients now earn income, usually on a part-time basis. STEP will not only result in

significant encouragement to these individuals to increase their earnings, but also enable thousands of others to pursue employment opportunities they could not previously have afforded.

We also have to recognize that many recipients require specific supports in order to access employment opportunities. Accordingly, we will be taking action to expand, consolidate and streamline existing employment support programs. An overall increase of \$54 million by year three has been provided for this purpose.

### 1350

These significant funding increases will take place in co-operation with municipalities and will expand the network of assessment, employment preparation and referral support services for social assistance recipients. Furthermore, participants will be provided with financial assistance to defray their out-of-pocket costs of transportation and child care.

As part of this initiative, we will undertake four to six pilot projects, in co-operation with community agencies, to test a more rationalized approach to the delivery of employment preparation services to disabled persons.

We recognize that social assistance recipients need improved access to the mainstream programs providing skills training and employment experience. This must be done in partnership with the Ministry of Skills Development and the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. The Ministry of Skills Development will be provided a further \$8 million in literacy training money over the next three years, with social assistance recipients as the key target group.

These measures, totalling \$84 million, will increase the economic independence of recipients. They are investments that will lead to significant returns for individual recipients, and ultimately, society as a whole.

Under the heading "Adequacy of Benefits," I would like now to turn to the second major plank of Ontario's social assistance reforms, namely benefit adequacy. The government recognizes that poverty is correlated with poor health and lower educational achievement. Many of these problems can be traced to the simple fact that persons receiving social assistance do not have sufficient funds to make ends meet. Particularly hard hit are those who have very high shelter costs.

In addition to the general rate increase announced by the Treasurer in yesterday's budget, I am announcing two further areas of improvement: (1) reform of shelter benefits, and (2) children's benefits increases.

The current manner in which the system reimburses shelter costs is both inadequate and complex. It requires recipients to take money from the food and clothing portion of their allowance in order to pay the rent. Accordingly, a complete redesign and new funding are the only possible solutions.

The changes we will make will result in a new and simpler social assistance allowance structure with only two major components, a component for basic needs such as food and clothing and a separate shelter component that pays 100 per cent of the cost of shelter up to a specified limit.

New provincial funding of \$119 million will be required for this initiative, which will help an estimated 225,000 adult social assistance recipients and 175,000 children. Those with higher rents will benefit more. For example, a single parent with two young children paying rent of \$600 per month will receive an additional increase of \$133 per month. This shelter initiative is in addition to \$20 million of shelter improvements effective last September.

The high cost of shelter has been cited as the major reason some people have to turn to food banks. I expect today's improvements to have a real impact on the use of food bank services.

Over 40 per cent of the people in receipt of social assistance are children. Child poverty is a distressing and challenging social issue. Many of the initiatives I have already announced today will assist children in families receiving social assistance, but more direct help is needed. Therefore, I am announcing an infusion of \$54 million in funding to increase the children's portion of the allowances in our social assistance programs.

These funds are intended to achieve three basic objectives: fairer recognition of the cost of raising children of various ages, a simpler rate structure, and equalizing benefits paid to children on general welfare to those paid to children on family benefits.

Accordingly, two new age categories will be established, 12 and under and 13-plus, at a cost of \$34.4 million. The amounts paid for the second child in the family will also become the amounts paid for any subsequent children, at a cost of \$5.8 million. Finally, general welfare rates for children will be raised to the FBA level, at a cost of \$14 million.

Moving on to "Fairness and Simplicity," the SARC report identified two problems that recipients and administrators have known for some time: that there are inequities in the system,

which is overly complex. It is now time to begin to redress them.

A total of \$18 million is being set aside for this purpose. With this fund, we plan to make a number of improvements.

By way of example, we will be raising the level of benefits paid to men aged 60 to 64 to the level paid to women of that same age. We will raise allowances for elderly people who do not now qualify for old age security. We will be making changes to the treatment of farm income so that it is put on the same footing as small business income. We will be pilot-testing the direct deposit of social assistance payments into recipients' bank accounts.

As noted at the outset, the combined total of today's initiatives is \$415 million on an annualized basis. It represents not only a major reform of the welfare system in Ontario; it is an investment in people. Furthermore, we intend to ensure that we can demonstrate the value of this investment.

To that end, we will establish an evaluation framework for measuring the effectiveness of the reforms we are undertaking. We are particularly interested in the rate at which recipients are able to take up and retain employment as well as the response of the business sector to hire more recipients.

The overall impact of these improvements will be of particular benefit to families with children. For example, a single parent with two children will see increases of up to 17 per cent. I might add that a family with two parents and two children will see an increase of up to 20 per cent. In addition, basic allowances will be increased further, by six per cent, on 1 January. We have created financial incentives to work and enhanced employment support services. We have taken specific steps to improve fairness and equity.

With the reforms announced today as a foundation, we will begin the task of moving towards new legislation that will consolidate the Family Benefits Act and the General Welfare Assistance Act. We must also address the question of provincial-municipal cost-sharing and decisions regarding delivery. The Provincial-Municipal Social Services Review Committee is considering the recommendations of the Transitions report in its deliberations on the delivery and funding of all social services. Given the critical nature of these issues, the report of that committee will be an important basis for discussion and consultation with municipalities on the future delivery system in Ontario.

We also intend to pursue with the federal government those issues that will require discussion at the national level, in that they affect the broad income security programs of the country as a whole.

If my colleagues will permit, I would like to take a minute to give special thanks to a few people. I want to say a special thanks to the member for Scarborough West for having been there at the beginning and helping to plant the seed. I want to say thank you to the member for Hamilton West (Mr Allen) for the significant work he has done to encourage public support. I want to say thank you to the member for London North (Mrs Cunningham) who has insisted from the beginning that a good evaluation component be built into that plan, and it is.

I want to say thank you to a group of people who made an important announcement, I would suggest, at the right time. I am referring to Art Eggleton, the mayor of Toronto; Conrad Black; and Robin Korthals, the president of the Toronto-Dominion Bank.

I want to say thank you to the staff of my office and the staff of my ministry. I want to say thank you to my caucus, which backed me all the way and I want to say a special thanks to the Treasurer, who as many members know, challenged me all along the way to do this right. Finally, I want to say thank you to the Premier (Mr Peterson), who never gave up.

1400

**Hon Mr Conway:** I want to inform my colleagues that because of the length of this statement, I am sure the next statement is going to require a little more than one minute and 35 seconds. Also, I would like to provide a bit of time for the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs Wilson) to make a short introduction. So I would like there to be an extension. Of course, I am quite prepared to afford the opposition additional time in their responses as well, obviously.

**The Speaker:** Unanimous consent for what length of time?

**Hon Mr Conway:** We probably would need an extension of four to five minutes on this side and if the opposition requires an additional five or eight minutes for its combined responses, so be it.

**Mr Harris:** I am quite prepared to give the amount of time required and would suggest opposition parties be given the same.

**The Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

## EDUCATION FINANCING

**Hon Mr Ward:** Today, I am providing details of a plan to ensure greater fairness and equity in the distribution of local and provincial education revenues between Ontario's public boards of education and Roman Catholic separate school boards.

With the extension of funding to the senior separate school grades, a change endorsed by all three parties in this Legislature, it is appropriate and just that both of our province's publicly funded school systems have fair rights of access to local assessment revenues.

In coming to this conclusion, we have given careful consideration to the significant public input that was part of the deliberations of the Macdonald Commission on the Financing of Elementary and Secondary Education. In addition, over the past several months we have had consultation with the Ontario Public Education Network and the Completion Office Separate Schools.

I want to commend both of these groups for their sincere commitment to arrive at a solution that would provide for equity without undermining the financial stability of public boards of education in this province. Both parties, I believe, were sincere in their desire to provide a fair share of available local resources to the children in the two systems. The great challenge was to find a solution that would ensure no public school board in this province would incur a net loss in revenue as a result of these changes.

Specifically, we propose to permit Roman Catholic members of a business partnership to designate their school support to the separate school board in proportion to their interest in the partnership; require the property tax assessment of publicly traded corporations to be shared between coterminous public and separate school boards on the basis of each board's share of the residential and farm assessment in each municipality; and require telephone and telegraph company receipts to be shared between public and separate school boards on the basis of each board's share of the residential and farm assessment in each municipality.

Finally, the rules governing the division of revenues raised locally from private companies, sole proprietorships and individuals' businesses will remain as they are.

These changes will be phased in over a period of six years, beginning in January 1990. This will provide a reasonable period of time for school

boards to adjust their financing to this new sharing of assessment.

Public boards of education have always had a mandate to provide the best quality education for all children in this province. They have done this effectively over many generations and I believe the changes we put forward today will ensure that they continue to do so with adequate local resources, since in no case will a public board experience a net loss of revenue. In fact, the vast majority, nearly 80 per cent, of all public boards of education will experience an increase in revenues.

To accomplish this, we will increase grants to all school boards by some \$30 million each year over the six-year, phase-in period. This will mean a total increase in school board operating grant ceilings of \$180 million per year at the end of the six-year period.

Thus, I believe we can provide an assurance that the changes I am describing today will not adversely affect the public school system.

It should be noted that these changes bring to a conclusion the last outstanding issue relative to the decision of this province and this House to provide equality of opportunity for all children in this province, regardless of whether they are enrolled in the public or separate school system. It allows every child the opportunity to reach his or her full potential in an atmosphere of certainty and harmony, and it also allows all of us involved in this great challenge to move forward with an agenda that focuses on the quality of education.

#### ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SENIOR CITIZENS

**Hon Mrs Wilson:** I am pleased to announce today the appointment of JoAnne Fillimore as chairman of the Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens. Mrs Fillimore has been a member of the advisory council since 1985 and served as vice-chairman last year. She replaces Ivy St Lawrence, whom we all know, who stepped down on 31 March.

An active senior in the Windsor area, Mrs Fillimore is chairman of the Windsor-Essex Council on Aging. She also sits on the board of the United Way of Windsor-Essex County, is a member of the South Essex Arts Association and is past executive director of the South Essex Community Council.

JoAnne Fillimore has been a dedicated and valued member of the Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens. I am very pleased we will continue to benefit from her experience as she assumes her new role. I look forward to working

with her to promote the wellbeing of seniors across the province.

JoAnne Fillimore is with us in the members' gallery today. I would ask honourable members to please welcome her.

### RESPONSES

#### SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

**Mr Allen:** The Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) finally saw the light. The vigil that was held over the last two weeks out here sent prayers to high heaven. We all wore our little flames on our lapels, hoping those prayers in fact would mean something, and indeed I think they have meant something of some significance.

I should say too that those who allied themselves in one of the largest, most far-reaching coalitions in Ontario's political history in the campaign against poverty and those supporting the Social Assistance Review Committee public awareness campaign have a great deal to congratulate themselves for in the excellence, the stick-to-it-iveness and the stamina that they showed in the overwhelming lobby they conducted in recent months.

I want to say that for my colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr R. F. Johnston), this represents a culmination of the major thrust of his political preoccupation over the last eight years he has been in this Legislature, and even preceding that date. For those of us who have come more recently to the cause, we have reason to be thankful.

**Hon Mr Scott:** Let's see if you can say something nice about John Sweeney.

**Mr Allen:** If I might, if the Attorney General would not try to anticipate one's remarks, I want to say that the minister himself has had his heart in these reforms, and many, or perhaps all, of his ministry staff have worked in this direction for some time, only to meet the frustration of various regimes that have occupied the heights of power in this province over various lengths of time.

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It would be cavilling to note that there is no mention of improved case-load ratios; no mention of the need to consolidate the unconsolidated municipalities and get a more consistent delivery of social services across the whole province; not yet a benefit for the low-income earner such as a dental benefits program announced, and so on.

There are a number of items of the first stage of the Thomson report that are not yet announced, at least by this minister. At the same time, moves with respect to shelter subsidies, benefit adequacy

cy and the whole question of fairness and simplification are major steps.

We hope that the employability programs that we hope will make it possible for those on social assistance to move towards self-support and independence will be a significant notch above those that have been employed in the past. I notice some pilot studies there. I am sure a lot of experimentation has to go into making certain that those programs do the job they are intended to do.

At the same time, I would note overall that in order for this package of reforms to work, it is going to be essential that the government address in a much more substantial way the problem of the plight of the working poor. An inflation level increase in the minimum wage is not nearly adequate to make it possible for a person moving from social assistance into low-income employment, as almost inevitably happens, to maintain the thrust of his movement towards independence. It will be necessary for the government to look to the add-ons of those benefit programs to make that also continue to happen.

We know there are four more stages in the Thomson report to accomplish. It will require a great deal of energy and imagination on all our parts to make certain that those reforms are in fact implemented in their fullness. This party dedicates itself, as it always has, to the lot of the less fortunate, to the working poor of this province, to those who need our help so much and to whom this Legislature can give so much as we move through the subsequent stages of the Thomson report reforms and towards a more adequate distribution of wealth among the total population of our province.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** I might first address the first statement, even though it is no longer my responsibility. It is an awkward situation when an opposition politician has only to quibble about the timing of an announcement and not the major substance of it.

Members—and even the Premier (Mr Peterson), who may remember his days in opposition—may sometimes wonder what they will think about what their career actually accomplished and what effect they actually had on the process. I am hoping that today I am going to be able to find that there was some significance to some of the work that I did over the years.

I know the tendency that the minister went through, which was to make this an Academy Awards kind of thank you, and it is a dangerous thing to get into. But there are a couple of people I want to point out, three in fact.

First, I know the minister had a tough time with this at times with colleagues and fought very hard and has been dedicated to this issue. Second, there is my colleague the member for Hamilton West (Mr Allen), whose work around coalition-building helped to build the most incredible movement—I almost clapped when the minister mentioned Conrad Black. The number of people who came on side was really phenomenal on this matter. Third is George Thomson, whose work in pulling together a review of the most colossal challenge was remarkable. I just want to draw attention to those people.

#### EDUCATION FINANCING

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** To my new responsibilities and the Minister of Education (Mr Ward), I would just say that I think he is wrong if he thinks that the matters of educational financing disappear with this announcement and that the questions about the adequacy of funding to the Catholic system, for example, is now finished with this announcement today. It is going to take six years for the system to even get up to the sharing of resources that the minister is talking about.

Although there is no net loss to the public system in his announcement, it must be remembered that, after six years, his \$180 million is only going to be an increase of 4.5 per cent on the existing ceilings we have today. This is not an enormous adjustment, and I find it a little disappointing that that is the case. One must put this in the context of other things, like the payroll tax of the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon), which this year alone is going to cost some \$27 million to the boards of education across Ontario.

Although I think the minister has made some very clever political moves on this, the question of adequacy for the funding of education is still out there and will be the focus of the select committee on education this September.

**Mr Jackson:** I too would like to comment on the Minister of Education's announcement today and the Treasurer's announcement yesterday, that is, his reference to a historic moment in public education for this province.

At the outset, the Minister of Education makes the statement that the principles enunciated in his statement were endorsed by all three political parties. I would hasten to remind him that there were several opportunities during the negotiations on Bill 30 when our party advanced several amendments which would have clearly provided the guarantees he espouses to protect the public

system, but which the minister and the then third party of the day voted against.

We are left today with an announcement from the minister based on simply a statement that those guarantees will be upheld, guarantees we have not seen in fact guaranteed, as was witnessed in some of the negotiations that went on in Hamilton over the use of school space.

There is concern that the minister indicates he has widely consulted, with respect to his announcement today. It is fair to say that, although there was a province-wide commission, in light of the implementation of Bill 30, the full impact of his statement today has not been fully discussed and consulted.

I am confused somewhat by his statement of consultation when I consider the fact that Ron Trbovich, a member of his own ministry, for example, told a group of northern boards of education that there has been a deal made. My question to the minister is, why would he be announcing deals? Who was doing the consultation? Who was officially at the negotiating table for the public school children of this province?

In turn, the minister made a statement to the Ottawa boards of education, within the last few months, that negotiations have been terminated. What negotiations? When did he ever announce publicly that this matter was the subject of negotiations? Who was at that table to discuss the future of educational financing in this province?

The second guarantee the minister makes is that somehow his plan will be revenue-neutral. We have heard that expression before. On those occasions, he has assured this House that that will not occur. But now that it is a provincial initiative and he insists it will be revenue-neutral, we are expected to believe the pronouncements of this government.

In fact, in the briefing by his own ministry, the minister uses calculations that are a year-and-a-half old; he is using taxation rolls that are two years old, with his calculations; he draws assumptions in here that the impact on the average home owner will be a net reduction in tax, and in fact, during the briefings, his ministry quickly indicated that that will be absorbed by the fact this government does not fund at the 60 per cent level, but only funds on a lower grant ceiling rate.

The fact of the matter is this is not going to be revenue-neutral. In fact, while yesterday the Treasurer announced that \$180 million would be committed in the budget, today the Ministry of Education announced to partners in education that in fact the general legislative grants would

increase by \$165 million and there would be a special top-up grant of \$35 million. There is already a discrepancy between the two ministries of \$20 million.

Again I ask the question: What is going to happen in the sixth year? Is that when the government offloads its responsibilities?

In conclusion, it is apparent that on public education, once again, this government is long on discussing the principle but short on implementing the necessary financial commitments to ensure the safety and security of public education.

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## SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

**Mrs Cunningham:** In response to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney), all I can say is that he has done it and we congratulate him. This is a lesson in democracy, because we have only been here for one short year, and if anybody can have this kind of influence on the Premier (Mr Peterson) of Ontario and the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) in just one year, everyone should run for public office and do a good job.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mrs Cunningham:** Seriously, I should think that in looking at what the minister has done, economic independence, adequacy of benefits, fairness and simplicity are the very topics we wanted him to address.

I should say, in my role as critic and as part of this democratic process, that we will be watching very carefully. We will be watching for programs that affect the quality of life of these people that we, all of the taxpayers in this province, have now said we will support. We will be looking very carefully at affordable housing, not only to the people we have decided to support but to the taxpayers who eventually will be paying the bill. Therefore, we need responsible rents and reasonable costs in housing and it is extremely important that we do this in a very efficient way.

With regard to child care, I think these announcements today will be putting an even greater stress on the minister's program, and we will be making certain that those spaces that are available are available for those people we have talked about today.

With regard to skills training, I hope the Minister of Skills Development (Mr Curling) will work to the best of his ability and to the best ability of everyone in this province to make these

programs available so that people can re-enter the world of work.

I think the big question for us is, when will it all happen and how fast can we make it happen, carefully and with a built-in structure for evaluation? Who will we communicate with in making this happen?

I hope the municipalities and the front-line workers will be the first persons on the minister's list. We have looked at everyone else across this province, across this wonderful country, North America and Europe, and now it is extremely important that we communicate with those who deliver the front-line services first and the municipalities, which we are asking to take on the responsibility of program delivery.

I think how we will do it is extremely important, and we know that right now we have built-in inefficiencies in our system that are extremely important to dismantle. In looking at how we can implement many of these new programs, I have to stress the fact that efficient service delivery is extremely important. Where we have a little bit of fat and meat and those kinds of things that happen in almost any department of government, this is the most important one of all, because the people we are serving with these programs are the people who notice it first. Therefore, we want to be credible and accountable to the public.

I should say in respect to the Treasurer that there were a few little things that happened yesterday that took away from these programs. I am very concerned about the payroll tax and I hope that will not increase too significantly goods that the very citizens we are trying to help have to purchase. We hope the business community will not be deterred in providing even more employment to people who need it the most.

Congratulations to the minister. We will be watching the implementation carefully and we wish him the very best.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### INCOME TAX

**Mr Laughren:** I have a question for the Treasurer concerning his failure once again to introduce an element of fairness into Ontario's tax structure.

The Treasurer will know—and in case he has forgotten, it is on page 29 of his budget statement—that when he introduced an increase in the Ontario tax reduction program this year, in a budget of over \$40 billion in revenue, he beefed up the tax reduction program for low-income earners by a total of \$9 million. That amount will

be eaten up by the increase in the personal income tax and by the rate of inflation, so it is really giving them absolutely nothing.

**The Speaker:** Does the member have a question?

**Mr Laughren:** Can the Treasurer tell us why he gave so little?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I have maintained the tradition in the fifth budget that the tax reduction program be expanded still further. I wish it had been more, but the question is why it was not more. It is because we have removed the premiums from the Ontario health insurance plan for substantial revenue gain for every person in this province.

I think it is important to note that many of the people the honourable member is talking about, the working people at the low end of the income scale, do pay their premiums to OHIP. This means that there is an additional \$714 that they need not pay. If their employer pays it on their behalf, under this program the tax benefit does not go on their T-4 form and their personal income tax is reduced.

The honourable member would know from having carefully read the budget papers that for the taxes that people pay there is an overall gain of over \$400 million, in addition to the tax reduction that the member has referred to that benefits all of our citizens.

**Mr Laughren:** The Treasurer knows full well that the OHIP benefits accrue to people at different income levels, not just people at low income. We are talking specifically today about people at the bottom of the income scale. Can the Treasurer tell us, given the fact that he introduced no minimum corporate income tax, he introduced no increase in the capital tax on banks or on financial institutions and the fact that he has over \$1 billion in new revenues, how he squares that with the fact that people earning \$10,000 below the poverty level will still pay provincial income tax in this province?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I suppose I can square it by saying we are moving toward perfectibility, but unlike the honourable member, we have not achieved it. I simply point out that under the provisions of this budget, 365,000 people who pay federal income tax pay no tax in this province. Another 200,000 approximately have substantial tax reductions. While that is insufficient, and we would agree on that, it is a substantial situation.

I have already indicated other provisions of the budget which will assist low-end earners. Not the

least of these is the provision of medical care without premiums required. I know the honourable member has a look of exasperation on his face, and yet the \$1-billion tax saving that accrues to all of these people has a focus on low-income people which must be significant and should be recognized.

**Mr Laughren:** That is total nonsense, and sarcasm will not make this a fairer budget. Could the Treasurer tell us what is fair in terms of horizontal equity in the tax system, when a single senior earning \$12,400 starts to pay income tax to Ontario, whereas a working single person under the age of 65 starts paying income tax to the province of Ontario at \$4,000 less than that? What is fair about that?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I think the member, in looking at the impact of the budget as a whole, would realize that with the improvements that are available to all of our citizens, whether they are senior citizens, the working poor or those who are presently in receipt of social benefits, or whether they are the large middle class which obviously pays the largest share of our revenues, there are advantages from this budget that are significant and measurable.

He focuses on a particular group and there is no reason why he should not, other than for me to respond and say that the fairness and equity in the programs that we provide and the taxes we impose are recognizable and effective. The member should be among those who congratulate the government for these initiatives.

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#### TAX INCREASES

**Mr B. Rae:** I also have a question for the Treasurer on his budget which might be called death by a thousand tiny cuts. He has introduced these taxes: There is the income tax, gas tax, fuel tax, tire tax, pesticide tax, land transfer tax, the commercial tax for Metropolitan Toronto, the health levy, the driver's licence, beer tax, hydro taxes and rentals.

Given the impression that people no doubt have as a result of this budget, that every time they turn around there is a little user fee added here, there is a tax here and there is a tax there, I want to ask the Treasurer specifically about the element of regional prejudice which he has, for the first time in the history of our province, introduced into the treatment of a particular area. Why is it that he has singled out Metropolitan Toronto and the citizens of Metropolitan Toronto for higher taxes at a time when the rate of inflation in this town is going up by seven per

cent and when we already find that the average house costs \$280,000?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I certainly do not like the tone the honourable member has put on his question, but I would say we have singled out the greater Toronto area for the maximum benefits in the programs we have announced. The honourable member, as a resident of Toronto, will know of the congestion in transit on our roads, and of the \$2 billion that has been allocated in the budget fully \$1.2 billion will be spent in this area.

I want to respond to the main point the honourable member made, of some sort of regional competition. He would know of and has always supported, for example, the recognition of the needs of northern Ontario with lower-cost licence plates, special allocation for roads and special funds available to the north, which we certainly all enthusiastically support. In this instance, in this great world-class city in which we have the greatest pride, it is the aim of this government to provide infrastructure by way of servicing the community in education, in health services, in recreation services and now, in this special program the honourable member refers to, in transportation services that will make it continue to be among the finest in the world.

**Mr B. Rae:** Surely the Treasurer would realize that his task is to establish that the public good and public goods—and presumably roads are public goods, not private goods, and presumably transportation is a public good as much as health is a public good—should be paid for fairly by those who can afford to pay, not simply strapped on to everybody who drives a car and everybody who has to buy a tire. That is the principle at stake here.

Since the Treasurer responded—

**The Speaker:** The question is?

**Mr B. Rae:**—by mentioning northern Ontario, perhaps in terms of regional prejudice and in terms of regional impact he will recognize that the two-cent-a-litre increase in gasoline has a profoundly stronger impact in northern Ontario than in any other part of the province. I wonder why he has neglected to keep a very old, long-standing Liberal promise, which no doubt you, Mr Speaker, will recall, because it was part of the platform in 1985.

**The Speaker:** The question?

**Mr B. Rae:** And that is a tax credit for northern Ontarians that would allow them to cope with a higher—

**The Speaker:** Order. The question has finally been put.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** The honourable member will be glad to know, since he has not examined the budget very carefully, that of the special additional funds raised for transportation, together with the standard budget that my colleague the Minister of Transportation (Mr Fulton) administers, northern Ontario will receive fully 20 per cent of those funds. The honourable member does not want to distribute the funds specifically on a head count basis and neither do we. That is why the northern needs are met at that rate, because we understand their transportation requirements are greater than those in which the communities are closer together. I am very proud of the fact that this 20 per cent commitment is standing and is going to improve transportation in the north.

**Mr B. Rae:** Mr Speaker, you may have heard an answer to my question as to what happened to the northern tax credit; I did not hear the answer to that question.

**The Speaker:** Ask it again if you wish.

**Mr B. Rae:** I think we again have a budget which is unique in our history in that the Treasurer is seeking to increase the burden in terms of user fees. He is singling out for particularly hard treatment certain parts of the province and citizens living in those parts of Ontario, in particular this concept the government is so attracted to now of the greater Toronto area.

My question to the Treasurer is this: Does he not realize that working families in the greater Toronto area face a rate of inflation which according to his own figures is going to be up over seven per cent; that they are excluded now from his rebate on the land transfer tax because one cannot find houses in Metropolitan Toronto at the rate which he has suggested?

**The Speaker:** Question?

**Mr B. Rae:** I would like to ask the Treasurer this simple question: Does he not realize how divisive and unfair this budget is when it applies harsh measures to citizens living in some parts of the province—

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I think the honourable member talks quite rightly about the people who are in need in all communities of the province of Ontario and whose income is inadequate, but he should also recognize in this budget the fact that the abolition of Ontario health insurance plan premiums gives a full \$1 billion to our people,

and that is money in the pocket. It is not smoke and mirrors; it is money that all of us as members of this Legislature and all citizens in Toronto and elsewhere receive.

I think it is incumbent upon the Leader of the Opposition to recognize that this budget, in serving the needs of the community by way of increasing taxes to pay for services that are required, including the Social Assistance Review Committee recommendations as well as education recommendations, including improvement in transportation and new programs for the environment, also returns to the public a full \$1 billion to be used by themselves as consumers. In that way there is a balance which should be recognized in a way that would be appropriate: with the support of opposition parties for these initiatives.

**Mr Brandt:** I have a question for the Treasurer as well. In the document the Treasurer tabled in the House yesterday—if I can get the Attorney General (Mr Scott) to not interrupt—I wanted to address to the Treasurer the question of some of the areas of the budget that perhaps were not as well identified for the edification of the public as they should have been. I want to know if the Treasurer is aware that on the revenue side of his budget, fully a 100 per cent increase has occurred in the taxation he has subjected this province to over the period of time since he has become the Treasurer. The revenue he generates through taxation is now some \$30 billion or \$31 billion.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Forty-one billion.

**Mr Brandt:** That is \$41 billion in spending. I am talking about the revenue the Treasurer generates. I will give him the page in the budget if he would like to look at it.

The fact of the matter is it was \$15 billion when the Treasurer took office. In that short number of years, he has doubled taxation in this province. Does the Treasurer consider that to be fair, equitable, reasonable, in the light of the number of years he has sat over in that position?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Not only have we improved the inadequate programs we inherited, but we have brought in substantially new and innovative approaches for the funding of quality in education; for the improvement of our transportation infrastructure; for dealing effectively with the environment; for funding our medicare system as is certainly needed, and at the same time—and this would appeal surely even to the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party and his little band of followers—we have reduced the deficit in

the province from well over \$3 billion, which we inherited, to \$577 million.

**Mr Brandt:** I want to say to the Treasurer, with respect, that the sarcasm he displays in this House is beneath him.

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The Treasurer surely must be aware of the fact that the growth in the provincial economy during the selfsame time that he has doubled taxation in this province has gone up at about half the rate that he has subjected the people of this province to in terms of new taxation. The growth of the provincial economy has gone up some 50 per cent; the growth of his revenue sources, namely, taxation, has gone up 100 per cent. Is there no end to the number of times he is going to subject the people of this province to \$1.3-billion tax increases, such as he did in that budget he tabled yesterday?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I think we can be proud of the fact that the share of the revenues that come into the provincial Treasury are a decreasing proportion of the economy of Ontario. I am not prepared to say that we have kept within the levels of inflation, because that would have been impossible if we were going to provide, which we are determined to do, the kinds of service through medicare and all the other programs that the honourable member tells us to spend on in the other days when he is here. But if we are going to do that, it is and must be within the power of the economy to withstand and support it economically. I can assure the honourable member that we are doing that in a fiscally responsible way.

**Mr Brandt:** There would be many who would question whether the Treasurer's latest budget increases are fiscally responsible, but I want to suggest that when he compares the budget of Quebec over the same time period that I suggested to him a few minutes earlier, namely, the past five years, and the budget of Ontario, what he will find is that a tax advantage for those who lived in Ontario that was some 10.5 per cent just a few short years ago has now, as a result of the measures he has undertaken, narrowed to two per cent, and our position vis-à-vis the competitive position of Quebec in terms of enticing new business, new industry and new jobs into that jurisdiction has eroded to only two per cent.

**The Speaker:** And your question?

**Mr Brandt:** Is the Treasurer proud of the fact that he is gradually, over a period of time, eroding the competitiveness of this province as it relates to other jurisdictions?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I think the leader of the third party is correct when he says that the economy of Quebec is growing and well-led by the Liberal government of that particular province, but I should point out to him a fact that perhaps has eluded him. During the four years of our administration—and about the same period of time in Quebec, if he wants to compare—we have had substantial and impressive growth here; as a matter of fact, as great as any jurisdiction in the western world with the exception of Japan. Our unemployment levels are now at about five per cent, and in many of our communities, we have sustainable, full employment.

While comparisons are invidious, one of the unfortunate aspects about the distribution of the benefits of a growing economy in this nation is that the unemployment level in Quebec is just below 10 per cent. It must be frustrating for those people who, as the member points out, have improved their competitiveness in a way that is quite commendable for them but is not our policy because we provide a different range of services, which are well supported by the community. This inequity is a matter of grave concern, and it is true right across Canada. When you go to Newfoundland, the unemployment levels are higher.

What I am really saying is that, without making invidious comparisons, which I do not intend to do, we are proud of our accomplishments here: that we are competitive not only in Canada and North America but worldwide, that we have full employment in most of our communities and that our economy is buoyant enough to support—

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Runciman:** My question is to the Solicitor General about her visit to the Lucan police station in the early morning of 9 April and her phone call to it some two hours later at 3:51 am.

Press reports indicate that the minister went to the police station because the arrested man's family was out of town. However, police officers report that the minister met the young man's father in the police station parking lot, yet still proceeded to approach police and make inquiries. The young man in question had earlier warned police officers not to arrest him because he was a friend of the Solicitor General and they would lose their jobs.

In light of her role as the province's senior law enforcement officer, does the minister believe

her actions on the morning of 9 April were appropriate and justified?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I would put it to the member for Leeds-Grenville that he must consider all the factors involved. I received a call, as he states, in the middle of the night. The point of the call was the safety and wellbeing of a girl's brother. She assured me her family was out of town and that she did not know what to do and was deeply distressed about the safety of her brother overnight. I tried to reassure her that the police are dependable, reliable and that her brother was in no danger. She continued with her accusations, I would say, and I could not persuade her that her brother was safe.

In the middle of the night, you do not know exactly what to do with this kind of information. Other results could have occurred from that information and you would wonder in a different way what should be done.

In my own way, I decided the best thing to do was to deal in an open and forthright manner by going to the police station in a public way stating to them that I had had a phone call expressing concern for the safety of this young man, to assure myself that he was indeed safe and then reassure the daughter.

I got there, as the member states, and found that I had been misled, that the girl's father was in town and had been contacted. I spoke therefore to him and found out that I had been further misled about the safety of the brother. He had met with his son and was satisfied about his safety. In fact, he was leaving him there overnight.

I then spoke briefly to the police officers, simply to—

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Runciman:** I gather the minister believes we are living in a police state and is uncertain of the safety of people incarcerated in our jails.

**Mr Jackson:** That is exactly what she said.

**Mr Brandt:** How could safety be in question?

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Runciman:** The Solicitor General has led us to believe that she is a great believer in independent and public investigations of police conduct, but the investigation of her own conduct was done by the force that reports directly to her and was never made public until the media found out about it. This whole affair smacks of a whitewash, and I ask the minister to tell us why she did not insist on an independent investigation of her conduct similar to the investigation carried out in the George Kerr affair in 1978 and why she did not immediately release the results of the

investigation to the public. Is there a double standard, one for the police and one for her?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I would reiterate I was concerned with only one thing, the safety of the young man. I had had these allegations made. I satisfied myself that I had been misled about his safety, as I expected I would satisfy myself, and I simply immediately withdrew from the whole matter.

**Mr Runciman:** That is an unbelievable response. This is a very serious matter, much more serious than the incidents that resulted in the resignations of George Kerr and the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr Keyes). This minister contacted her employees, Ontario Provincial Police officers, on two occasions inquiring about the arrest of a friend's son. She has endorsed an investigation of her activities by people answerable to her, contrary to everything she tells us she stands for. She is guilty of terrible judgement, if nothing worse, and I ask her: Is she prepared to do the right thing and submit her resignation to the Premier (Mr Peterson) pending an independent investigation of her actions?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I would reiterate that I did not inquire about arrest or know anything about arrest. I had no idea whether he was or was not arrested or charged. I simply inquired about his safety and wellbeing and that was all.

**Mr Brandt:** How was he unsafe in a police station?

**Hon Mr Scott:** He wasn't. His sister thought he was.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Brandt:** George Kerr made a phone call and resigned. You go and visit the place and that is okay.

**Hon Mr Scott:** Who did he phone Andy? Who did George phone? He phoned a judge.

**The Speaker:** Order, the Attorney General and the member for Sarnia. If you want to waste the members' time, we will just wait.

New question, the member for Riverdale.

1450

**Mr Reville:** My question is for the Solicitor General as well. I am the parent of teenagers. I have lots of friends who have young adults living in their family. I can sympathize with the Solicitor General's impulse to go to the aid of a family friend, but I am very concerned that the minister does not seem to understand she has made a terrible mistake. Does the Solicitor General not realize that she cannot, try as she might, step out of her role as Solicitor General?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I would reiterate that I received a call in the middle of the night stating that the police had acted with undue force, in fact accusing them of beating the young man and a friend referred to as his "crippled friend." I really wished—I tried to persuade the person calling that he would be fine and safe. I was unable to do so.

For this reason, along with the fact the parents were out of town, according to the information I was given, I went strictly to make sure and to reassure that these accusations were unfounded, as I expected they would be and as indeed they were.

**Mr Reville:** The Solicitor General is in one persona a friend and in another persona a parent. But she is the Solicitor General, the chief law enforcement officer of this province. By her actions, she is putting out a terrible message that there are two kinds of justice, one for those who can call her and one for those who cannot. What I think we require of the Solicitor General is that she stand before the House and acknowledge that she made an error in judgement.

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I would point out that I had a difficult decision to make. The member may consider it an error of judgement. It was a difficult decision to make. I would point out as well that there is only one system of justice, which the police well understand.

I acted in a forthright and open way where all of them could hear anything that was said. I addressed only the problem of his safety. The police, as they should and did, dealt with all matters to do with justice and in fact subsequently laid charges.

**Mr Runciman:** Again to the Solicitor General, I guess we would appreciate in this House some elaboration in respect to her concerns about any individual being incarcerated in the Lucan jail under the custody of the Ontario Provincial Police detachment.

She has given us an indication here this afternoon that she was concerned about the safety of an individual incarcerated in the Lucan station, that she was concerned this individual was being assaulted by police, OPP officers under her jurisdiction. I would like her to elaborate on why she feels that indeed was a valid concern.

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I would point out to the member for Leeds-Grenville that I had a phone call making certain allegations. I had indeed been misinformed, but I did have a phone call making certain allegations. Like himself, I have great confidence in the police, but I am aware that occasionally unfortunate things do happen.

I wanted to reassure this person. By doing so, I believe I protected the police as well as myself because I was able to reassure them that indeed their conduct had been excellent and that he was in safe and secure hands.

**Mr Runciman:** I think there is a question of public confidence in the administration of justice in Ontario and certainly this is an assault against public confidence in respect to this system; there is no question about it.

We take a look at the George Kerr situation. Mr Kerr contacted an assistant crown, someone who was not his direct responsibility and not his employee, and inquired about an impaired driving charge. The Solicitor General contacted an employee of hers. She endorsed an investigation of her own conduct by her own employees, contrary to everything she tells us she believes in.

She went to this police station, the Solicitor General suggests, because she did not believe the parents were in town. She met the father in the police station and yet she still pursued the police on this question—

**The Speaker:** And the question?

**Mr Runciman:** —and she followed up with a phone call at 4 am in the morning. How can she possibly justify her actions on the morning of 9 April? How can she do it?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I would simply remind the gentleman that I was awakened by a call, certain statements were made and I really had to make a decision that was a very difficult decision to make. He may not agree with the decision I made, but I acted openly and in a forthright manner, in a way that I would not be ashamed of.

I was well aware the police were able to hear and see everything I was doing. Therefore the member may be assured that I acted in a completely appropriate manner at all times. I had been misled and the facts are as they stand.

## TRANSIT SERVICES

**Ms Collins:** My question is to the Minister of Transportation. Two years ago, the regional municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth made a commitment to support the retention and expansion of trolley bus service as a major mode of public transportation in the region. This decision was made with the understanding there was a commitment made by his ministry to subsidize this plan with 90 per cent funding. There are now fears the commitment will be withdrawn.

Could the minister clarify the funding commitment his ministry has made with respect to trolley buses in Hamilton-Wentworth?

**Hon Mr Fulton:** I appreciate the question of my friend the member for Wentworth East and her ongoing interest in matters related to transportation. It gives me an opportunity to clarify some erroneous comments in the House by the member for Hamilton East (Mr Mackenzie) a week or so ago with respect to the funding issue as it relates to trolley buses.

The subsidy program was offered to the operators, which only involved Hamilton and the Toronto Transit Commission in Toronto, back in 1970 as a response to the energy crisis then. At no time, however, has the 90 per cent subsidy ever been undertaken or utilized by either transit authority, so we have never in any way, as suggested last week, discriminated, nor would we, with respect to Hamilton or any other municipality or transit authority.

We continue to study, with Hamilton and other transit users, other alternative fuels, as we are required to do. We have asked Hamilton and others to participate in that overall review of alternative fuel vehicles.

**Ms Collins:** Can the minister inform the House whether his ministry will continue to fund trolley buses in this province?

**Hon Mr Fulton:** I can assure my friend the ministry is committed to subsidies through our transit office, supported as recently as yesterday by the massive support from the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) with respect to public transit. We will continue our support for the refurbishing and remodelling of the trolley buses in Hamilton at the current 75 per cent level.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Reville:** My question is to the Premier. I think the Legislature is entitled to his view of whether he thinks it is appropriate for a Solicitor General to have parking lot conversations and telephone conversations with officers of the Ontario Provincial Police.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** My honourable friend raises a legitimate question. Let me tell him my view of the situation. I was aware of this shortly after it happened. I asked for a complete investigation of the situation and I am satisfied I am in possession of the facts.

As the minister has said to the member, she was phoned in the middle of the night and there was an allegation that the parents were out of town and that a young person was being beaten by the police, as was a crippled friend.

The minister was then presented with a judgement. The member made a very legitimate

point. He said she could not distinguish herself as a human being from her role as Solicitor General, but it works the other way as well. Even as Solicitor General, obviously she, and you and I in the circumstances, would have human instincts.

Here she is at two or three in the morning possessed of this allegation as Solicitor General, and a choice has to be made. What should she do in the circumstances? Do nothing? Obviously, I am sure my friend, in fairness, would say that if in fact this allegation was true and she had not acted on it, obviously there could be repercussions from that point of view.

She exercised her judgement in the circumstances. I can understand reasonable people feeling that was not a reasonable exercise of judgement. I can tell my honourable friend that after a thorough investigation I am satisfied, as the Premier of the province and the one responsible ultimately for this, that it was in the circumstances a reasonable exercise of judgement.

Charges were laid by the police. I had the investigation; it came back to me and said that there was nothing untoward, that there was no unreasonable influence exercised in this circumstance. So, as I said to my honourable friend, I am persuaded in the circumstances that it was not unreasonable, although I understand my honourable friend, in the circumstances, perhaps having a different view.

#### 1500

**Mr Reville:** The Premier's answer raises two very disturbing things. One is that he has characterized the choice that was facing the Solicitor General (Mrs Smith) as an either-or situation, "Either I do nothing or I go and visit the Ontario Provincial Police."

The Premier will know that the Solicitor General probably knows every senior lawyer in southwestern Ontario who would have responded, I am sure, with alacrity to a call from her for help for a person who was being held in a police station. There would have been no problem with that response at all.

The other point the Premier raises that disturbs me particularly is that he says he has known about this since about 10 April, yet neither the Solicitor General nor the Premier of Ontario told the Legislature about this until the matter appeared in the newspaper, even though the Ontario Provincial Police had prepared a press release against that eventuality. I would like the Premier to comment on those matters as well.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I am aware of a great number of things all the time, obviously and I think that is legitimate in the circumstances.

I understand my honourable friend's point of view. I have reviewed the matter. When it came to my attention, there was a thorough independent review. As I said to my honourable friend, I am satisfied in the circumstances that it was a reasonable exercise of judgement.

The member says there may be other things the Solicitor General could have done, and obviously that is the case. Maybe he would have done other things, but I am saying to him that I am satisfied that in the circumstances it was reasonable and the minister has my support.

**Mr Runciman:** My question is to the Premier on this matter as well. It would be interesting to reflect back to 1978 in Hansard with respect to the Premier's views and the Treasurer's views of the day with respect to Mr Kerr's actions.

Like most members of the executive council, the Solicitor General probably receives thousands of phone calls over the course of the year. Is the Premier suggesting to the House today that this is a new policy his government is establishing, that if the Solicitor General receives calls comparable to the one she received on 9 April, her response is quite appropriate, that she will turn up at every police station she happens to be in the neighbourhood of when she receives a call? Is that what he is suggesting?

**The Speaker:** Order. The question has been asked.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I can understand my honourable friend's desire to push this to its logical extension, but I do not agree with the circumstances as he was interpreting them.

I think the Kerr situation, from my recollection of the facts, was quite different. There was a minister of the crown who phoned a judge to try to influence the—

**Mr Brandt:** No, he didn't phone a judge.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Then my honourable friend may have some information I am not aware of.

As I said, in this circumstance, she went to the police station. Allegations had been made. Subsequently, the young man was charged. I am satisfied from the independent review there was no untoward influence exercised in the circumstances. That was clearly the report that came back, so I am satisfied in the circumstances.

**Mr Runciman:** It is passing strange this Premier is telling us he is completely satisfied in respect to this matter.

I raised this issue earlier with respect to any serious charges laid against a police officer. This government and this minister have continually told us that police department cannot carry out the investigation, that it cannot do it in an independent manner. Yet the Premier is saying he is completely satisfied with an OPP investigation of its boss, the person it is responsible to, the person it is ultimately answerable to, the top law enforcement officer in this land.

Another legitimate point that has been raised here is the fact that the Premier kept this report completely under wraps. He has gone on for four or five years now about an open government. Let's hear some answers with respect to why this was kept under wraps, a very serious matter indeed. Would the Premier tell us why he feels it is all right for this minister to have her own staff investigate her, but why a police officer out there, a guy walking the beat doing the best he can do for the people of this province, cannot use that process—

**The Speaker:** Order. The member has asked a couple of questions.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Back to my honourable friend, I am of the view that there was an independent review of this situation and that I am in full possession of all the facts on the matter. Obviously, judgements have to be made. As I said to the member, charges were laid in the circumstances. There was no suggestion any influence was used to influence the course of justice one way or the other.

I understand my honourable friend trying to draw a different conclusion from the facts, but those are the facts as I understand them and the conclusions I have drawn on the basis of the facts as I know them.

#### NOISE BARRIERS

**Mr Faubert:** To the Minister of Transportation, the Macdonald-Cartier Freeway is the northern boundary of my riding of Scarborough-Ellesmere. It provides an important east-west transportation link across our province, as well as within Metropolitan Toronto. However, for some residents of Metro Toronto and indeed other urban parts of the greater Metro area who reside near the highway, Highway 401 represents 24 hours a day of traffic noise, alleviated only by the noise attenuation barriers erected by the ministry. Can the minister update the House on his ministry's retrofit program for these noise barriers.

**Hon Mr Fulton:** I appreciate the question of my friend the member for Scarborough-

Ellesmere. Certainly, I am very familiar with the issue he raises in Scarborough and with the demands on the ministry with respect to noise barriers or noise protection for abutting residences. It is ongoing throughout Metro, throughout areas adjoining the Queen Elizabeth Way and areas of Kitchener and Ottawa, particularly those four.

He would know we attempt to address many projects per year. We have several ongoing across the province, particularly in the jurisdictions I have indicated. We are moving as quickly as possible. In fact, there was some funding in yesterday's budget as announced by the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon), for which we are indeed thankful. We hope to get on with the installation of new barriers as quickly as we can.

**Mr Faubert:** I would like to advise the minister of the apparent need for an extension of a noise barrier along the 401 eastbound between the on-ramp for Victoria Park Avenue and Shandon Drive. Some residents of Shandon Drive have expressed their concerns about the noise level generated by the 401 in this area and their attempt for years to have this barrier extended along the off-ramp of the 401 behind their homes. Indeed, this barrier was one of the earliest barriers in Ontario.

Can the minister advise if consideration could be given to extending the barrier in this area under the ministry's retrofit program?

**Hon Mr Fulton:** We are looking at a number of areas that require retrofits. My friend the member for York Mills (Mr J. B. Nixon) has also brought a similar situation to our attention. As a result of that, both in the areas in Scarborough and across the 401, because of the age and the nature of materials that went into the barriers in those days and a number of technical improvements that have in fact been adopted with respect to sound barriers, we are indeed looking and will of course include the sites the member has indicated in that review for eventual replacement.

#### EDUCATION FINANCING

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** My question is for the Minister of Education regarding his statement today. I wonder if the minister can advise us of a couple of things. First, is the figure that is involved going to be \$180 million, or is it going to be \$200 million as was given out in his briefing today, a \$165 million change to the general legislative grants and \$35 million to compensation, a \$35 million figure which according to his staff could be considerably more?

**Hon Mr Ward:** On the point the member raises, perhaps what he should know is that the changes, in terms of the designation of assessment as a result of today's statement and our intent to proceed on this matter, represent in total a shift of revenue from public boards to separate boards in this province of \$120 million.

He will also know one of the very important recommendations of the Macdonald commission was an increase in grant ceilings. We arrived at the conclusion it would be appropriate to increase grant ceilings, both to public and separate boards in this province, at the same time as we phased in these changes. The \$165-million figure represents an increase in ceilings that will ensure that in its totality, public boards do not have a loss of revenue.

However, there are, I think, a dozen or so boards in this province that specifically could face a negative impact, so we will establish a pool of money to ensure that no board in this province loses any revenue. That, of course, will be dependent on the assessment roll figures that are available at the beginning of the year. Our estimate is that figure could be from \$180 million to \$190 million.

#### 1510

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** It is quite incredible that now it could be \$180 million to \$190 million and yet in his own briefing just an hour and a half ago, his own people were saying that it was going to be at least \$200 million and it could be much higher.

I want to also say to the minister regarding this whole matter that there seems to be a bit of sleight of hand here. The major problem, of course, is the fact that we are only paying 42 per cent of the cost of education from the provincial coffers at this point. What we are really talking about is an adequacy factor. The minister's increase of four-plus per cent of the ceilings is not going to make a major difference.

But why did the minister indicate on page 2 of his announcement that he is commending both parties for their commitment to finding this solution when on Monday the minister received a hand-delivered letter from the representatives of the public systems indicating that they did not support this approach to solving the financial problems of both systems?

**Hon Mr Ward:** The member will know that there are probably only two organizations in this province that have representatives of all of the stakeholders in both public and separate education. One is the Completion Office Separate Schools which has representatives of separate

board trustees, teachers and administrators. The other is the Ontario Public Education Network which has the same kind of representation.

The member will also know that many, many years of public input went into the work that looked at the specific recommendations of reform of the financing of elementary and separate public education in this province. The member should know and should understand that the approach that we have taken in this proposal that is put forward today is somewhat different perhaps from what was recommended by the commission. It is an approach that guarantees that no public board of education in this province will suffer a net loss of revenue. In my view, it is the only approach that requires an equitable access to local resources in this province for every child in this province, whether they be enrolled in a public or separate school.

#### EMPLOYER HEALTH LEVY

**Mr Pope:** My question is for the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology with respect to the budget. The minister will know that the legislatures of both Saskatchewan and Quebec, in the tabling of their budgets this year, have boasted of the fact that Ontario is virtually the highest taxing jurisdiction in Canada. Therefore the costs of living in Ontario and doing business in Ontario are substantially greater than either of those jurisdictions.

As my leader said, the gap between Quebec and Ontario is narrowing and is now virtually nonexistent with respect to the new taxes. In light of that, will the minister please explain to me why he can support what is, in effect, a two per cent tax on employment in this province, namely the payroll tax? How can the minister support that tax?

**Hon Mr Kwinter:** I am sure all members will realize that any time taxes are added, it is not a popular thing, no matter who gets taxed. In a perfect world, there would be all the services that were possible to provide and no taxes.

This is not a perfect world. What we do is we keep very close tabs on how we compete, not only with the other provinces, but also with the state jurisdictions—also on an international basis. It was the decision of this government that considering what we provide in the way of services and what the requirements of the population of Ontario are regarding health service, social services and education, that there had to be a sharing of that responsibility.

We think it is critical that we provide the \$1 billion that is going to the people who can get it

directly as a result of the elimination of Ontario health insurance plan premiums and that should be shared equally. It is being shared by a one per cent personal income tax on the part of the private citizens and a sharing of this employment health levy on the part of industry.

**Mr Pope:** The minister knows full well that the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) and the Premier (Mr Peterson) whacked the hell out of small business in this budget. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology himself, in his own studies in 1986 and in 1987 from his small business bureau, put out his own ministry's position. He was contemplating a two per cent payroll tax then and both studies said: "Don't do it. It's going to erode the competitiveness of small business in Ontario." How can he support the measure that his own ministry that he represents opposed for two years?

**Hon Mr Kwinter:** Again I say that if we felt it was not an equitable sharing, we would have used other alternatives. We think it is fair, we think it is equitable and we think it will keep us competitive, but in the long term it will provide the quality of life that we have expected in Ontario and which really acts as an incentive to attract industries to this jurisdiction.

#### PORK PRODUCTION

**Mr Tatham:** My question is for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. On 2 May 1989 the United States Department of Commerce imposed a preliminary countervailing duty of three and a half cents a pound on imports of Canadian fresh chilled and frozen pork. I know that this action has come as a major disappointment to the Ontario swine and pork processing industries, especially at a time when the Canada-US free trade agreement was expected to foster improved trade relations between the two countries.

As the minister is aware, one of the criticisms of the Canada-US free trade agreement is its lack of ability to diminish in the future the effects of US protectionist actions on bilateral trade. Is this unfortunate development for Canadian and Ontario pork processors an indication of the kind of trading relationship all Ontario agriculture can expect under this agreement?

**Hon Mr Riddell:** The Ontario Pork Producers' Marketing Board must not only feel disappointed but must feel betrayed by a free trade agreement which it supported, only to be hit by another countervailing duty after the agreement was signed. Now it seems that through a revision to US trade law, the United States pork industry

can constrain our processed pork exports as well as our live hogs.

I feel it is important to stress to all members of the House that the free trade agreement did not provide much relief from the countervailing actions of the United States. In other words, the United States has retained its right to use countervailing duties on so-called—and I underline, so-called—unfair trade.

I will tell the members that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is doing all that it can to assist the Ontario pork producers and processors to fight this action.

**Mr Tatham:** As the minister is likely aware, a controversial element of this action concerns a new provision in US trade law that allows the Department of Commerce to automatically count all subsidies to swine producers as subsidies to pork processors. I understand that this provision does not require the Department of Commerce to investigate the actual economic impact of swine subsidies on pork processing operations. I am told this action could be contrary to US responsibilities in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. What has the Ontario government done to support the interests of Ontario hog producers and pork processors in this matter?

**Hon Mr Riddell:** As the honourable member might expect, this countervailing duty case has involved investigating the subsidy practices of Canadian federal and provincial governments. I will tell the member that my officials have been working closely with the federal government and with the Canadian and Ontario swine producers and pork processors in their efforts to develop the best possible defence against this action.

I fully support the federal government on its intentions to challenge the United States on the conduct of this case and I will certainly continue to relay the interests of Ontario's swine producers and processors to my federal counterpart over the course of this case.

## TRANSIT SERVICES

1520

**Ms Bryden:** I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. It is apparent from yesterday's budget that the new revenue from the huge tax increases slapped on motorists in Metro and the greater Toronto area will not be used for ending the horrendous traffic congestion in this expanding metropolis.

No commitment is made in the budget speech for construction of the Sheppard Avenue subway beyond a minor improvement to the Yonge-Sheppard station announced over a year ago, nor

are any commitments made for any other subway construction projects in Metro.

In view of the vital importance of improved public transit in this area in relieving traffic congestion, will the minister tell us why the Sheppard Avenue subway is still in limbo? Will he give us a list of what subway expansions, if any, he will contribute funds to this year, in what amounts and why they might have higher priority?

**Hon Mr Fulton:** I find the member's comments totally contradictory to what she was suggesting on Monday of this week, wherein she was expressing concern about the lack of funding for public transit and other initiatives to reduce the congestion problems in and around Metro and the greater Toronto area; and then here, on Thursday, she ignores the most incredible infusion of funds to address congestion in the greater Toronto area this province has ever seen.

**Ms Bryden:** There is nothing specific for public transit, and my concern is that the minister does not appear to give it priority.

I would also like to draw to the minister's attention that the huge tax increases on drivers in the Metro area will force many seniors and people with disabilities to give up their cars and rely entirely on public transit or special programs to overcome barriers to access.

How does the minister expect to meet the needs of these important and growing groups, seniors and the disabled, with the token \$5 million given by the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) to "...improve transportation services for seniors and disabled people throughout the province"? It is an insult.

**Hon Mr Fulton:** I am not sure whether the member for Beaches-Woodbine wants an answer to the disabled situation or with respect to Sheppard Avenue, but perhaps I could try to touch both.

The member would be aware that last November, in response to a question from my friend the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr Faubert), we enunciated what in fact we were doing with respect to Sheppard, and that was providing \$1 million to protect, from a planning point of view, the Sheppard corridor, which had never been done before. There was no consideration for what in fact you do, other than draw a black line on the map with respect to Scarborough. That is now in the works.

The member would be aware that hundreds of millions of dollars in the Treasurer's budget yesterday were directed towards transit, not only in Metro but the 73 transit operators across this

province—I think \$196 million in operating subsidies alone across this province.

The member would be aware that only two weeks ago the Metropolitan council voted 26 to 6 in support of the Spadina subway extension, which we will then have. When that is completed, we will be able to exercise options in at least three different directions. We further have indicated strongly and indicated yesterday that we would carry out the Sheppard-Yonge subway/bus terminal.

## PETITIONS

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Mr Charlton:** I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government to scrap Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act.

"Because Bill 162 contains the most significant changes to the Ontario system of workers' compensation contemplated for many years, and yet was confirmed through the public hearings on the bill and was developed without an adequate process for public consultation with the stakeholders; and

"Because Bill 162 represents an attack on injured workers and their families and all those who have fought over the years to achieve fairness and justice for injured workers and their families; and

"Because Bill 162 will eliminate the current lifetime pension for lifetime disability and replace it with a dual award system combining a lump sum and actual wage loss award benefits that has been rejected by injured workers and lawyers working on their behalf and by the trade union movement since it was first proposed for implementation in Ontario by the 1980 Weiler report and the Conservative government's 1981 white paper; and

"Because Bill 162 virtually ignores the devastating critique and recommendations of the Majesky-Minna task force report on vocational rehabilitation that was submitted to the Minister of Labour and suppressed by the Liberal government until April 1988; and

"Because Bill 162 gives legislative form to the unacceptable and reactionary policy of restricting access to supplement awards announced by the Workers' Compensation Board in 1987; and

"Because through Bill 162 injured workers are made subject to increased discretionary power at

the hands of Workers' Compensation Board and made subject to ever more intrusive and demeaning assaults on their dignity, their privacy and their right to fair and just treatment."

This petition is signed by a number of residents of the province from Fort Erie all the way up to Barrie. I guess that should make it very clear that, in fact, Hamilton is the centre of the Golden Horseshoe.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. You have signed it?

**Mr Charlton:** I have signed my name to it, Mr Speaker. Thank you.

**Mr Wildman:** I have a petition signed by eight residents of this province. It is addressed

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, be leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government to scrap Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act..."

The reasons that were read by my colleague the member for Hamilton Mountain are explained on the petition.

I have signed my name to the petition and I support the position of the petitioners.

### FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**Mr Owen:** I have a petition which is signed by 12 residents of this province.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the duty of a free people to constantly guard and, if necessary, defend those freedoms; and

"Whereas the French Language Services Act elevates one linguistic group into lawful, but unjust, privilege over 95 per cent of all Ontarians; and

"Whereas the French Language Services Act has since 18 November 1986 been implemented in secret without the public being made aware of its implementation and to which access has been denied to the public and even to the elected members of this assembly; and

"Whereas such implementation is plunging forward at enormous cost while health care, police and fire protection, municipal grants, education and the environment are experiencing cutbacks in funding; and

"Whereas no minority can expect for long to enjoy the advantages of a law that shows such reckless disregard for majority sensitivities; and

"Whereas the views of the majority of the citizens of Ontario were not represented on 18 November 1986 as only 55 of the 125 elected members of the Legislature were present to vote,

"Therefore, to preserve patience and goodwill in the name of justice and for the love of harmony, we implore this House to refrain from further implementation of the French Language Services Act.

"We further respectfully request the above-mentioned member of Parliament to stand and read this petition"—namely, myself—"implore every member of this House to study this law and to demand a copy of its implementation procedures manual and to bravely reveal the contents of both law and implementation to his or her constituents, who may then respond with a ballot in the next Ontario election."

I have signed it, but of course do not endorse the contents of same.

**The Speaker:** This might once again be the appropriate time to remind all members of standing order 31: that members are entitled to present the material allegations of their constituents or people of Ontario. It is not necessary to read all the "whereases." The "therefore" is sufficient.

1530

### NATUROPATHY

**Mrs Grier:** I have a petition addressed:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is my constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of my preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

It is signed by over 60 residents and I support their petition.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### BRUCE OFFICE SUPPLY LIMITED ACT, 1989

Mr Harris moved first reading of Bill Pr23, An Act to revive Bruce Office Supply Limited.

Motion agreed to.

### ONTARIO SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT, 1989

Mrs Grier moved first reading of Bill 25, An Act to protect and enhance the Quality of Drinking Water in Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

**Mrs Grier:** The purpose of this legislation is obviously to protect and enhance drinking water quality in Ontario, to set standards that can be enforceable for the quality of drinking water and to provide opportunities for public involvement in the making of regulations to set those standards.

### HEALTH PROTECTION AND PROMOTION AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

Mrs Grier moved first reading of Bill 26, An Act to amend the Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1983.

Motion agreed to.

**Mrs Grier:** The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the sale of irradiated food and food which contains ingredients which have been irradiated within Ontario.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

**The Speaker:** I believe the member for Nickel Belt adjourned the debate.

**Mr Laughren:** I did indeed adjourn the debate yesterday following the reading of the budget of the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon). I welcome this opportunity to respond to the budget on behalf of New Democrats.

A budget is both a social and an economic document. It is or at least can and should be a blueprint for the future with directions on how to get there. It is, I believe, the single most important document produced each year by the government and provides in one place the best overall summary of just what a government is all about. Unfortunately, this government is not about much.

After four years in power and five budgets, it is clear that this government is lacking in leadership that provides us with direction and goals. This is not just the assessment of the opposition members of the Legislature, but the assessment of an independent consulting firm based on interviews with the government's own members. Instead of

a document that sets out to effect change in our economic and social system, this budget, like the ones before it, only reinforces the status quo. Never before has so little been done with so much.

Looking back at the first Liberal budget in 1985, the government had revenues of \$26.2 billion and expenditures of \$28.8 billion.

Interjection.

**Mr Laughren:** I am going to have to cope with the government House leader today, but I will try to work my way through my response to the budget despite the presence of the government House leader.

Today, just three and a half years after that budget was delivered, those numbers are \$40.7 billion and \$41.3 billion respectively. Cumulatively, the government has collected an extra \$35 billion in this short time, but it is hard to see what concrete benefits have come from this. I repeat that figure: \$35 billion in extra revenues have been collected since this government came to power.

Are workers better off? Is affordable housing a reality? Has poverty been eliminated? Have we a revamped and efficient health care system? Have we gained domestic control of our high-technology sector or begun a program of import replacement that should have started with the development of a domestic mining machinery industry? No. The list goes on and on and the answer is always no.

This government really has become a government of the status quo. Almost nothing has changed in direction since this government came to power in 1985.

In preparing my response today, I considered what I think are the three most important goals of government: The first is fairness to individuals, groups and regions; the second is the provision of a strong social infrastructure; and the third is to give us a vision of tomorrow and to ensure that this vision is an egalitarian, economically prosperous society with participation by all. I would like to address each of these issues.

Fairness has a number of dimensions. The one I most often talk about is tax fairness, and we had an exchange in the House this afternoon with the Treasurer, I must say a very unsatisfactory exchange.

We understand that the government must raise the revenues necessary to pay for public services on an equitable basis; to do otherwise would be unethical. Yet when I look at this budget and the ones before it, I can honestly say that the Treasurer seems to have failed to grasp that point;

that it is one thing to raise money, even great gobs of money, but it is another thing not to do with that money what you should in a fair and equitable way. That is where this Treasurer has failed miserably ever since he became the Treasurer.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Don't you support the Social Assistance Review Committee?

**Mr Laughren:** The Treasurer asks whether I support SARC. This caucus indicated today an appreciation for the work the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney) has done and the battle he has had to fight in cabinet, including, I assume, the Treasurer, in order to get those funds.

If the Treasurer wants to talk about equity in our society, I would ask him how he feels about 84,000 people every month getting food from food banks in Metropolitan Toronto. There was not a single food bank in this city 10 years ago. Now there are 80 of them functioning.

As long as we have people going to food banks in order to sustain themselves and their families—There is something terribly wrong with a government that has raised all that extra money, in the neighbourhood of \$35 billion, and can still sit back and watch food banks function in a society as rich as this, and in particular in a community as rich as Metropolitan Toronto. I know it probably makes the Treasurer feel good to watch the big cars pull up at the food banks and dump off the cartons of canned food, but that is not the kind of society we want in Ontario. Until food banks are eradicated, the Treasurer should not be satisfied.

We do know that when the Treasurer became the Treasurer, the provincial income tax rate was 48 per cent of the federal tax payable. That is now up to 53 per cent, which is a substantial increase. He has increased the land transfer tax, the gas tax, the liquor and tobacco taxes and motor vehicle registration fees. As a matter of fact, the 1985 budget sounds a lot like the 1989 budget because of the specific items he addressed in that budget.

The Treasurer certainly did not understand about tax fairness last year when he increased the personal income tax, the retail sales tax, the tobacco and liquor taxes and the gas taxes while lowering corporate taxes by about \$100 million. I am talking about last year.

He continues to miss the point again this year, with further increases in the personal income tax, gas taxes, liquor taxes, retail sales tax, and increased fees on car registrations and licences, which raise an additional \$800 million.

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Whatever happened to the notion of a progressive tax system and a tax system where the tax burden is shared more equitably between individuals and corporations? It appears that the Treasurer, when he is thinking about his budget each year, looks around to see what still does not have a consumer tax on it or does not have a user-pay approach to his budgeting. There is nothing complex, there is nothing mysterious about a fair tax system. It is simply based on ability to pay. The Treasurer seems to have forgotten that.

I would, however, like to congratulate the Treasurer on the elimination of Ontario health insurance plan premiums. Of that I am pleased. I do understand this was a Liberal promise going back to 1985, and without taking away from my pleasure at the OHIP premiums being eliminated, I would remind—

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** Don't display your pleasure, Floyd.

**Mr Laughren:** No. I am very happy about that. This party has been on record, since the very beginning, that there should be no such thing as OHIP premiums. I would just point out to the Treasurer that we have now become the eighth province in Canada to have no health insurance premiums. It is not as though this is some kind of breaking of new ground and progressivism.

**Mr Bossy:** It is for Ontario.

**Mr Laughren:** That is absolutely correct. For Ontario, that is breaking new ground. I would thank the member for Chatham-Kent for that interjection, because seven other provinces already realized it was wrong to have health insurance premiums and I am glad we have finally joined those other provinces.

I must also admit the Treasurer had my heart in a flutter for a few seconds, when I was reading his budget and I flipped through and saw the words "commercial concentration levy." At first I thought, "Finally, it's here: a levy on the corporate concentration of wealth in Ontario." That is what I thought. I should have known better; that really was not what it was going to be.

I still find it hard to believe that those living below the poverty line in this province still pay provincial income tax. Whenever we talk about the poverty line, these are not figures we make up. These are figures that come from Statistics Canada, which establishes the poverty level for people all across Canada in urban centres. In Ontario, the poverty line, for a family of four, is roughly \$24,000. At this point, in Ontario

someone who is \$10,000 below that poverty line, at \$14,500, still pays provincial income tax.

The Treasurer simply mumbles he cannot, when I ask him this in this assembly, month after month—

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** The Treasurer never mumbles.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** The Premier (Mr Peterson) mumbles.

**Mr Laughren:** Maybe his mouth was full when he answered the question; I do not know, but he seemed to be mumbling.

The Treasurer really has never explained how he justifies the fact that a family of four with an income of \$14,500, \$10,000 below the poverty line, should have to pay provincial income taxes in a province as wealthy as Ontario. He has never satisfactorily answered that question. I do not think it is just to me that he has given unsatisfactory answers. I suspect there are a lot of Liberal backbenchers who do not feel it is quite right that someone at that level of income has to pay income tax to Ontario, given the wealth of this province. We think that is fundamentally wrong.

I raised in the Legislature today, although in question period there is never much time, the whole difference between the way a single senior is taxed and the way a single working person is taxed. A single senior whose income is \$12,400 pays no provincial income tax, but if you are under the age of 65 and your income is \$8,300, you pay provincial income tax. I have always thought one of the measures of fairness was horizontal fairness as well; people at the same level of income should be treated accordingly. I wonder how the Treasurer squares that with any definition of fairness. I do not understand that.

Why is it, when the working person has expenses, perhaps more than the single senior citizen, the single senior citizen versus the single working person—How can you have this enormous discrepancy in the provincial income tax system?

I will get into that later, about why Ontario should have its own tax system.

There really was nothing in this budget to make things fair, other than the Ontario health insurance plan premiums. I hasten to add that we are big supporters of the abolishment of the OHIP premiums so the honourable member does not have to keep interjecting that I am forgetting about it; I have not forgotten that.

Last year and again this year, we presented to the Treasurer in the form of a prebudget submission, if you will, some suggestions for

making the tax system fair. They were very specific and we added up the numbers so that the Treasurer could see that this was not simply spending a whole lot of money and not collecting any money. That is the easy way out for opposition politicians, and we did not play that game. We were very careful about documenting how much money the Treasurer would lose and how much he would gain by our tax measures.

One of the things we suggested to the Treasurer was that Ontario have its own provincial income tax system. In his reply to my leader, the Treasurer said he refused to do it because of common sense, as I recall his rather flippant answer.

Interjection.

**Mr Laughren:** Yes, last week. That was the Treasurer's response to my leader.

The Ontario Economic Council commissioned a major study—if 2 inches thick is a major study these days—on whether or not we should have a provincial income tax system in the province. The council did not come down firmly and say: "Yes, Ontario must have a provincial income tax system." It did not say we should not, but it did talk about the merits and demerits of such a system.

The Treasurer himself has explained to many people, anybody who will listen to him, that he does not like to have to apply taxes on federal tax payable, because as long as you do that, as long as you are paying what the federal system says is taxable, then you are mirroring an inequitable federal tax system. The Treasurer understands that; he has commented on that several times.

If we were in control of our own tax system, we could do things much more equitably than we do now, because I do not think that this Treasurer really wants to be an accomplice to the Michael Wilson tax regime that comes out of Ottawa. I do not think he likes that, and we said we should have our own here. Quebec has its own. We have our own corporate income tax system here, so it is not as though this is a revolutionary idea. Once again, we would not even be breaking new ground in Canada. Besides, the Treasurer should stop whining about the federal tax system if he does not want to put in his own.

One of the measures we talked about that the Treasurer should do in this budget was to redress the problem of property taxes at the local level. I believe that if there is a tax revolt coming out there, this is where it will start, at the property tax level.

In 1975 the province paid roughly—using round figures now—60 per cent of the cost of

education and the local property taxpayer paid 40 per cent; now those numbers are virtually reversed, with the local taxpayer paying around 60 per cent province-wide and the province only picking up in the neighbourhood of 40 per cent. We suggested that what we should do is work towards getting that back to the 60-40 per cent level to start with as an immediate goal. We could see doing it in four years and our estimate of the cost this year was a little over \$400 million.

Nothing is free; we understand that. The taxpayers are paying either way, but we believe the property tax way of paying it is the most regressive way to pay it and that there is a much better way to do it. Besides, surely education is a province-wide responsibility, and we should be picking up more than 40 per cent of the cost of that. It is expensive to get back to that 60-40 per cent, but over a four-year period, at over \$400 million a year, we could get back to that.

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**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I read it and I thought they shouldn't get hung up on that one.

**Mr Laughren:** If the Treasurer had read the figures, he would know we explained how to fund that too.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** It used to be a big deal for you.

**Mr Laughren:** Yes. The Liberals used to believe that was important. They do not seem to any more.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** It used to be 80 per cent.

**Mr Laughren:** The Liberal promise used to be 80-20. All we are asking the government to do is to go halfway to that and get back to 60-40.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Times change.

**Mr Laughren:** Times have changed because they have made them change. They have not changed willy-nilly.

The other thing we wanted to do in terms of equity was to increase the Ontario tax credits for low-income earners. The Treasurer did not do anything this year on tax credits, nothing. Last year, when he raised the sales tax, he did something about tax credits because I think he felt he had to. This year, nothing.

We think that should be brought up to a level where it actually means something. At the present time those tax credits do not mean much for anybody. The way it is now, the poor of this province are subsidizing the rest of us and we think that is fundamentally wrong. This had a price tag of \$300 million in order to increase the Ontario tax credits for low-income earners.

The other tax we have been encouraging the Treasurer to look at seriously is the whole question of a wealth or inheritance tax. I know this will bother the member sitting beside the Treasurer.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** I am all in favour of it.

**Mr Laughren:** Nevertheless, it is good to see the Minister of Labour is all in favour of a wealth tax.

As I recall, there are 24 countries belonging to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD countries; 22 out of those 24 countries have either a wealth or an inheritance tax. Half of them have both, as a matter of fact. Only Canada and Australia do not have either. Even the United States has an inheritance tax.

The Treasurer says: "Well, we can't do that. The wealth will disappear." Has it disappeared from all those other OECD countries? That really was not a very thoughtful response from the minister.

We surely are not a banana republic. Was it the Treasurer who commented on E. P. Taylor's estate being probated in the Bahamas? I think it was the Treasurer who commented on that, as a matter of fact.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Harry Oakes did the same thing.

**Mr Laughren:** Yes.

I know the Treasurer does not subscribe to the image of bloated capitalists with their big cigars and their top hats with the eagle perched on their shoulders, but I want to remind the Treasurer that we have become the haven. Why do we allow this?

We can impose a wealth or inheritance tax and we could do it without worrying about the wealth fleeing this jurisdiction. Are we so fragile in our security of why people live here and invest here? It is really a silly response by the minister.

We would of course ensure, as other countries do, that if we had a net wealth tax every year, it did not include the principal residence. It would not include cars or furniture or pension rights. It is not a case of taxing everything, and of course there would be a floor established, but we really believe it would make it a much more equitable tax system in the province and we think it would more appropriately share tax between labour and capital, which we now think is unfairly imposed on labour. I just remind members that the last figures I saw indicated 10 per cent of the wealthiest people in this country had over 50 per cent of the wealth, so there is lots there to be taxed.

We are not talking about a confiscatory tax regime here; we are talking about a very small amount of tax. Nevertheless, it would appropriately tax those people who get a great deal out of our society. We think they could put a little back into it through a wealth tax or an inheritance tax.

**Mr D. R. Cooke:** Where would you put the floor?

**Mr Laughren:** The floor would be negotiable. I would want to do a study on it. The number that comes to me immediately is \$500,000, but I am not saying that as cast in stone. There does need to be a floor, but the Treasurer just dismisses these suggestions out of hand. He is so wedded—

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** No, I do not.

**Mr Laughren:** Well, he does.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I had to say something and E. P. Taylor had died the day before.

**Mr Laughren:** Right.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr Laughren:** Perhaps the Treasurer could tell us at some point during this budget debate what studies he has commissioned that would look at a different kind of tax system in the province. At some time in the debate, I would like the Treasurer to tell us what studies he has commissioned. I would just as soon he did not do it now.

One of the other suggestions we had was that there be a minimum corporate income tax plus a capital tax. I think the Treasurer understands that there should be a minimum corporate tax. A story goes that they were pressuring Ronald Reagan to impose a minimum corporate tax. He did not like that idea until somebody showed him that Texaco paid less in taxes than his secretary and he was convinced. That was the way they convinced Ronald Reagan about these things. Perhaps that is the way we have to go with this Treasurer as well.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** What does Ronald Reagan's secretary have to do with this budget?

**Mr Laughren:** Perhaps that is the kind of reasoning we need to use on the Treasurer to bring in a minimum corporate tax.

In the mid-1950s, the ratio between corporate and personal taxes was about one to one. In the mid-1960s, it was two to one. In the mid-1970s or now, it is about three to one for personal taxes. The last numbers we could obtain showed there were 30 corporations with income of over \$7 billion that paid no taxes to the Ontario Treasury.

Let me give members some examples. In 1987, Xerox Canada: Income was \$64 million; taxes paid, not only zero, it got a \$2.6 million credit. In 1988, Bramalea: \$41 million; no taxes paid. Brascan: \$174 million; no taxes paid. In 1987, Tridel Enterprises: \$16-million income; no taxes paid. Hees International in 1987: \$151-million income; no taxes paid.

At the same time, as though adding insult to injury, those companies that had these profits paid out dividends to their shareholders. And what do the shareholders get when they get those dividends? They get a tax credit based on the presumption they should not have to pay taxes on those dividends since the corporation that is paying them the dividends already paid corporation taxes. That is my understanding of the dividend tax credit. The Treasurer sits back and lets this go on in Ontario. It is absolutely ridiculous and it just does not seem to bother him. This in itself is an inequity. When those people do not pay taxes, somebody else pays their share, and we know who is paying their share these days in Ontario.

I will not dwell on the next suggestion I had to the Treasurer because we have been through it too many times. That has to do with a speculation tax on people who flip houses that are not their principal residences, on people who buy homes simply to speculate on the fact that prices are going up in the province and that they will get a quick return on their investment. That is all we have ever said. It does not deal with principal residences. We said there should be a 100 per cent speculation tax if they flip in the first year and 75 per cent in the second year. The Treasurer has simply refused to do it.

He has watched prices. The first time the Treasurer refused was in 1987. When I first asked him that, the average price of resale homes in Toronto was about \$180,000. It was about that; a little more. The Treasurer said: "No, I do not think so. I think the problem has peaked." The Premier said a year later, when the price was about \$230,000: "It is a sweet headache. It is going to go away. Do not worry about it." Now the average price of a resale home in Toronto is \$280,000—\$100,000 more than when the Treasurer said the prices had peaked.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** So I wasn't right on the money there.

**Mr Laughren:** So he was wrong. The Treasurer was wrong and he is wrong now when he says it is not the right time to impose a speculation tax.

I do not know why the Treasurer is so determined to remain with the status quo in Ontario's tax system.

**Mr Wildman:** He is a conservative.

**Mr Laughren:** Oh, it is because he is a conservative. Perhaps that is it.

This measure would not be a source of revenue to the Treasury because if it was brought in, if we had a speculation tax in the province, members can be sure it would end speculation. It is not a case of earning revenue; it is a case of putting a lid on speculative activity in the housing market because we believe housing is a social necessity, not something on which somebody should make speculative profits. The Treasurer does not seem to understand that. To the Treasurer, it is the marketplace. That is what will determine the price of housing in this society, nothing else.

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When we total up the price of all these proposals, Ontario's own income tax system, we think, would cost about \$100 million to administer, but do not forget that we take in about \$10 billion. Tax elimination for the poor would cost \$150 million. Property tax credits for municipalities to change the ratio of education taxes to 60-40 for the province versus the municipalities would cost a little over \$400 million. Tax credits for low-income people: \$300 million. That totals a little under \$1 billion, \$966 million that it would cost the Treasury.

New revenues that I have suggested, and I really feel we were most responsible in laying out these new revenues in order to pay for those programs, are the wealth tax, about \$500 million; the minimum corporate tax, another \$500 million, and \$65 million for the bank tax on capital, for a total of a little over \$1 billion. As a matter of fact, there was excess revenue in our proposal.

That the Treasurer seems content to simply remain with the present tax system we find most discouraging, given we had hoped that we would have some element of reform in this government when it came to the tax system.

Another concept of tax fairness is of regional fairness. Again, the budget has failed us on this account, as well. As a northerner, I am more aware than most that there are in fact two Ontarios, the economically vibrant Golden Horseshoe and the rest of Ontario, particularly the north which continually fails to reap the benefits of the seeming growth and prosperity of the south.

Even though I too believe the greater Toronto area has grown too big and too fast, I must condemn the government for its pathetic solution

to the problem. Instead of pursuing creative and innovative solutions that encourage growth in other parts of the province, their solution is to put an increased and oppressive tax burden on those Toronto area residents who already face a higher rate of inflation and exorbitant housing costs. It is the middle class that is the victim of this unbridled growth. Forcing them from the city will not solve the problem, but only create more problems.

It will create a city where only the wealthiest of the wealthy and the poorest of the poor live. I feel very strongly that unless we are able to arrest this kind of drift, of having only the wealthy and only the poor living in a place like Toronto, we are heading for problems that we now talk about as existing in American cities. I think we have been able to avoid that up to this point, but things have simply got to change.

I looked in vain for programs of new funding in northern Ontario in the provincial budget yesterday, but I could not find them. Laid-off workers get nothing. Those with innovative ideas who thought there might be an infusion of capital into the northern Ontario heritage fund should forget it. Municipalities that thought much-needed northern road construction would get a boost will be disappointed.

Let's start with job losses. The Ontario government has talked a lot about helping those in the north who have lost or will lose their work because of the free trade agreement or the 15 per cent tax on softwood lumber exports to the United States. There is nothing specific for these northern Ontarians. For example, government revenues from the softwood lumber tax will be \$18 million, but none of it is going to help those who have lost their jobs because of it, despite previous promises to that effect.

The government has come up with \$19 million for labour adjustment for the whole province, \$9 million of which will go to the federal program for older worker adjustment for laid-off employees over 55. Government officials estimate this will help 1,000 workers. That is small solace when there are already 1,700 jobless in the lumber industry and 700 will be out of work when the iron mines in Kirkland Lake and Temagami close, all in northern Ontario.

Not only is there nothing for those people who are laid off, but going to the north, getting back and travelling within the north are going to cost a lot more after yesterday's budget, as well. There really are two increases of one cent per litre on gasoline and diesel fuel. The 22.2 per cent increase in motor vehicle registration fees, the 43

per cent increase in driver's licence renewals and a new tax of \$5 charged on each tire are going to make a lot of motorists in northern Ontario very angry. Northerners are already forced by large distances and underdeveloped public transit to depend more on their cars and trucks than people in urban centres in the south.

Some revenues are supposed to go to transportation projects, but northern roads are not a priority in this budget. The Treasurer's comment in the budget—and I quote because it is a wonderful quote—was, "Our improvement of roads and highways in the North continues at a steady pace." That was one of the most discouraging statements in the budget for those of us from northern Ontario, because "at a steady pace" means at a similar pace, at the same pace. I do not know if this Treasurer has ever poured molasses in Moosonee in January, but that is the pace at which road improvements are going on in northern Ontario. No comment about four-laning of any highways or major improvements. They will put in the odd passing lane and that will be it.

**Mr Dietsch:** I have been up there. There were only 15 cars on the road I was on.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr M. C. Ray):** Order.

**Mr Laughren:** Liberal backbenchers from southern Ontario who say there are only 15 cars on the road in northern Ontario have a surprising lack of understanding of the problems of living in northern Ontario.

I would like to move now from dealing with northern Ontario, because I see it is getting the Liberal backbenchers too upset. There must be a residual guilt there among Liberal backbenchers about northern Ontario, because if there is one thing we feel certain about with this government it is that it simply does not comprehend the problems of northern Ontario.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Not true.

**Mr Laughren:** It is true, it is self-evident. I would like to turn now to deal for a few moments with housing.

**Mr Dietsch:** I know more about northern Ontario than you do about drinking Ontario wines.

**The Acting Speaker:** Order, please. Can we resume the speech?

**Mr Laughren:** If the member for St Catharines-Brock (Mr Dietsch) thinks there is some relationship between living in northern Ontario and drinking Ontario wines, I wish he would rise to his feet on a point of privilege and explain it to us, because it escapes me.

I would like to spend a few moments on housing, because housing has been one of the major failures of this Liberal government, and this budget only increases the upward spiralling of housing prices. Instead of introducing a real estate speculation tax which would provide a real slowdown in house price increases, we have another increase in the land transfer tax and a potential big jump in lot levies with the enabling legislation—

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** An increase for houses above \$400,000. You've got to go to Ramsay Lake where you live to get them that expensive.

**Mr Laughren:** The Treasurer cannot defend increasing taxes on housing by pretending that I live in an exclusive area of Sudbury. There is no link between the two facts. Because there are no facts there.

The home builders' association has said that the price of a new house may jump by \$15,000. When this is combined with the national goods and services tax, it could add almost \$25,000 to the price of a new home, and the price of a new home in Metropolitan Toronto now is truly remarkable.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** That's one of those \$400,000 items you've got on Ramsay Lake.

**Mr Laughren:** Truly remarkable. The Treasurer seems to get satisfaction out of the fact that the price of a new home in Metro now is in the neighbourhood of \$350,000. Since this government came to power, if there is one fact that is absolutely certain, it is that virtually all the houses that have been built have been built on the outskirts of people's incomes. That is an indisputable fact.

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While it is \$350,000 for a new home in Metro, a resale home, as I said earlier, is about \$280,000. Even to buy the resale home of \$280,000, to meet the requirement for the mortgage of 15 per cent down payment and so forth, I believe that a family income is about \$102,000. I would ask the Treasurer what kind of city he is encouraging here.

The number of nonprofit units to be built in the next three to five years has actually been reduced by 3,500 units per year due to federal cutbacks, and the province has not taken up the slack. The government has done nothing to increase the supply of affordable rental housing. The vacancy rate in Toronto is 0.2 per cent.

For members who are more qualitative-minded than quantitative-minded, that means two empty apartments in 1,000. For the rest of

Ontario it is 0.7 per cent vacancy rate. There are nearly 40,000 families on the waiting list for assisted housing in Ontario, a number that has nearly doubled since this government came to power. That is not to mention the 20,000 homeless people in Ontario, half of whom live in Toronto.

We did not get a definite commitment that the government would use government lands only for nonprofit and co-op housing, as opposed to for-profit housing; nor will the government be instituting land banking to provide future land for housing initiatives. So much for its housing policies.

I would like to spend a few moments on an issue that is with us seemingly daily in this assembly, and that is health care. Reflecting the recommendations of numerous government studies on health in Ontario, including the Premier's Council on Health Strategy and the finding of the New Democratic Party task force on northern health care, the report on which will be available shortly, the government has adopted the rhetoric in its 17 May 1989 budget emphasizing "community-based services and health promotion." However, while New Democrats support the increase in the budget to "home care assistance...community mental health programs" and "alcohol and drug dependency programs," we think the government has to go much further to make community-based and preventive care a reality.

The health care system has entered an acute crisis. While government neglect has forced northern Ontarians to do without many services taken for granted in the south, other Ontarians, especially in Toronto, have been experiencing for the first time since the Second World War overcrowded hospitals, unacceptably long delays in surgery, nursing shortages and a litany of other problems.

The crisis of access is happening at the same time that health budgets are running out of control. In yesterday's budget the Ministry of Health will spend \$13.7 billion; that is one third, or 33 per cent, of all government expenditures, and an increase of 10 per cent over last year. There appears to be no end in sight.

Hospitals and OHIP payments are driving up the costs. Together they account for most of the Health ministry's spending. In the 10 years between 1977-78 and 1987-88, funding to hospitals increased at a rate of 10.3 per cent per year, well over inflation. In 1987-88, over \$5 billion went into these institutions. That is \$533 for every man, woman and child in Ontario.

OHIP payments rose a staggering 15 per cent in this 10-year period. In 1986-87, 16,433 doctors received the lion's share of the \$3.2 billion paid out by Ontario's fee-for-service medicare plan. Their average earnings increased 63 per cent over the five-year period ending last year.

How can two contradictory trends, a huge increase in spending and a decrease in the overall quality of care, take place at the same time? New Democrats believe that successive Tory and Liberal governments have put too much emphasis on treating illness by physicians in hospitals, and this has led to a misallocation of precious resources.

Budgets for prevention, community-based delivery and the development of a range of nonphysician health care providers must be dramatically increased. Think of how hard the Red Cross and the Victorian Order of Nurses had to fight for every penny they got. It shows a lack of commitment.

However, figures in the latest available Ministry of Health annual report of 1987-88 paint a picture that tells a thousand words about the topsy-turvy priorities of our health care spending. While the institutional health program and OHIP premium payments accounted for 84 per cent of that year's total health budget of \$11.5 billion, the public health envelope got 1.4 per cent and the community mental health budget received 1.8 per cent.

The moneys announced in this budget do little to change this situation. The \$108 million for community mental health programs, for example, is about three quarters of one per cent of the Ministry of Health budget plan for 1989-90.

We are at a crossroads in respect to health care spending. There has to be a new vision of putting resources to developing wellness, not throwing money into a bottomless pit of treating illnesses.

New Democrats will be pressing the Liberal government to changes that implement our vision. Members will have an opportunity to discuss these critical health care concerns further next Thursday morning when my resolution, based on the NDP task force on northern health care, will be debated in private members' hour. I would encourage members to take part in that, particularly those members from southern Ontario who do not seem to understand the problems of health care in the north.

One of the major responsibilities of any government is to encourage and maintain a strong, vibrant future for its citizens. This involves, but is not limited to, maintaining and

nurturing our fragile environment, educating and training all its citizens so that they can be productive members of society and fostering conditions which encourage economic growth. This budget is also significant because it is the first budget since the free trade agreement was implemented.

Yesterday, when the Treasurer was reading his budget, I was not inclined to ask him who wrote it.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** You are more polite.

**Mr Laughren:** Yes, I was polite to start with, and second, I had a funny feeling of despair that he had.

I did want to talk for a few moments on the environment, because I think most of us who are in daily touch with our constituents know how strongly the people of this province feel about the environment.

Neither the throne speech nor the budget does much to develop a vision of what could be called a sustainable society. The 1987 Brundtland report of the World Commission on Environment and Development in defining sustainable development indicates that "We need to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." We will now have to deal with the impact of ecological stresses upon our economic prospects such as soil depletion, the greenhouse effect, forest mismanagement and so on.

Brundtland not only links environmental quality and a healthy economy, but makes direct connections between a healthy environment and eradication of poverty. As the report puts it, "The reduction of poverty itself is a precondition for environmentally sound development." And again, "Poverty is not only an evil in itself, but sustainable development requires meeting the basic needs of all and extending to all the opportunity to fulfil their aspirations for a better life."

Because the budget fails to do what a government can do to achieve the goal of meeting the basic needs of all Ontarians, particularly to address the needs of the neediest citizens, it does not lay the basis for a sustainable society in the future.

Specifically, there is nothing wrong with \$6 million per year for the environmental technologies program to help companies research and develop environmentally sound technologies, but it is a paltry sum in the budget as a whole, relative to the crying need for such research and development and the Liberals' alleged commit-

ment to its round table on environment and the economy.

It is heartening to see an increase in Ministry of Natural Resources funds for forest renewal, but we have no guarantee, especially given the approach and the time being taken by the MNR at the forestry environmental assessment hearings in Thunder Bay, that the funds will be used to develop methods of forest management that are more environmentally sustainable than massive clear-cuts and improperly monitored and tended regeneration.

The five-cents-per-bottle tax on liquor, wine and imported beer to fund waste reduction and recycling, while somewhat regressive, tries to address the garbage crisis, but it really does not go to the heart of the problem.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Regressive.

**Mr Laughren:** Yes.

It does nothing to reduce garbage at its source, which in this case would be to require that all such bottles be refillable, that is, reused, which takes less energy than crushing and making a new bottle from the old.

The budget and the throne speech should have provided a clear vision for solving the garbage crisis. Waste is a misplaced resource. Where is the commitment to move to a low-waste society with better use of natural resources? The budget should have focused not on recycling but on reducing the production of waste, such as taxes on excess packaging; three layers around a package of crackers, for example. It would push manufacturers to develop and use more environmentally sound practices.

I want to spend a couple of moments and talk about post-secondary education, because I really believe that given the statement—

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**Hon R. F. Nixon:** How about neutrinos?

**Mr Laughren:** As a matter of fact, it is funny the Treasurer would talk about neutrinos. I thought that when the Premier's technology fund was established, it was to accomplish and put in place projects such as the Sudbury neutrino observatory. Because the Treasurer cannot see neutrinos, cannot feel neutrinos, cannot smell neutrinos, he thinks there is no such thing.

**Mr Wildman:** He is a tactile person.

**Mr Laughren:** Yes. There is a gap in the Treasurer's education, because there is such a thing as pure research. For the Treasurer not to recognize that pure research is legitimate, I think, does not comment well on his ability to look into the future or at least to try to think ahead

as to the society we are going to have. It is bothersome to hear the Treasurer for ever sneer at the concept of a neutrino.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Scoff.

**Mr Laughren:** The Treasurer does. Every time we raise it, he sneers at the idea. That is simply not appropriate. The United States is putting money into it; Italy is putting money into it; Great Britain is putting money into it; Ottawa has put money into it already through the National Research Council. This province has done diddly-squat, absolutely nothing, for the neutrino observatory.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** They only want \$7 million, do they not?

**Mr Laughren:** They want \$7.2 million over four years. It is a good research project. It is a world-class project. That in itself should attract the Treasurer.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Yes, but is it proactive?

**Mr Laughren:** Yes, it is.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** How much do you need from us?

**Mr Laughren:** We need \$7.2 million over four years. Other jurisdictions are way ahead of this government and it really is sad.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Is there money up there in Sudbury?

**Mr Laughren:** Yes.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** And it's just sitting there in the bank.

**Mr Laughren:** I see what you mean. No, they have committed their money to the observatory and the province has committed nothing. I think the Treasurer should reconsider.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Neutrinos?

**Mr Laughren:** The Sudbury neutrino observatory. It is an important project; SNO, as it is known for short.

I would like to talk about post-secondary education and emphasize that if this government wishes to be consistent in its pursuit of an improved competitive edge in the global economy, it must start where ideas start and not ignore post-secondary educational funding. The Treasurer should not look so surprised. He knows he has not done the job with the post-secondary institutions.

According to the Council of Ontario Universities, in a position paper called *The Financial Position of Universities in Ontario: 1988*—very recent—Relative to its economic growth, the provincial economy has grown faster than university operating support. While other public-

ly supported sectors have enjoyed real increases in their levels of support per client served, the position of Ontario universities has declined.

Relative to expenditures in other areas, overall government expenditures increased at a rate one third faster than grants to universities, and relative to other provinces, government support for students in Ontario has traditionally been below the average of the rest of the country.

Provincial expenditures on university education—I am talking now about operating grants per student. The average in Canada is \$6,486. For Ontario, it is \$6,315. That makes us sixth in Canada. Relative to the United States, we are also behind.

The Treasurer and the Premier, particularly with their talk about getting this global edge out there in competition, surely must understand that you cannot just let the post-secondary institutions sit there and cram more and more students into them and hope that just putting more and more students in a lecture room will solve the problem.

I must say as well that when it comes to the colleges of applied arts and technology—a place where I spent several very enjoyable years and where some day I might very well return, voluntarily or involuntarily, so I have a vested interest in making sure that our colleges are well funded—there are numerous studies that indicate we are facing a shortage of a number of qualified workers who are trained in the colleges. That makes no sense whatsoever. I am thinking now of technicians, technologists, computer operators and health care workers who are covered under the colleges of applied arts and technology programs, and because of inadequate funding, we get distortions in the offering of those programs.

I would not want to put all the blame here, but it is a fact, I believe, that there is no community college representative on the Premier's Council and there certainly is, I believe, from the university community. I think that is an oversight, perhaps, that should be redressed, because I do think that is important.

The funding to the colleges has not kept up with inflation. The 1988-89 level of funding per student was 16.3 per cent lower in constant dollars than the 1978-79 figure. The level of funding per student increased by only 63 per cent since 1978-79, during which time the consumer price index increased by 94.9 per cent. If the funding levels were brought up to adjust for inflation, the funding for students would be over \$1,000 more than it is now. I wonder if the Treasurer was aware of that; that in the last 10

years the funding for students has gone up by about 63 per cent while the CPI has gone up by almost 95 per cent. The colleges have not done well.

An increasing interest and need for post-secondary education has led to record enrolment levels in the past two years, with no sign of a significant downturn in the number of applications expected in the next five years. The government's allocation of \$88 million towards accessibility funding is inadequate.

As students taken into the universities in 1987-88 move out of the first year of their programs, they cost 50 to 100 per cent more to educate. The Ontario Federation of Students estimates that \$57 million of that \$88 million accessibility funding that was granted will be accounted for by the flow-through of the fall 1987 enrolment increase and the special \$4 million allocated for improving accessibility for disadvantaged groups. Little will be left over to deal with this fall's enrolment increase.

Universities must be given the resources to educate the students they admit and not simply be encouraged to pack their classrooms and halls without regard to providing facilities for them. University administrators have responded by arguing that tuition fees must be increased and by making entrance requirements tougher. The Ontario Federation of Students appropriately asked this question:

"Tuition does have a definite impact on accessibility and it is logical to assume that the impact falls heaviest on students from average- and low-income families. Why, when we have finally made some progress, albeit inadequate, in improving educational opportunities for average- and low-income students, should tuition hikes be considered?"

Good question. Why indeed?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Who said that?

**Mr Laughren:** The Ontario Federation of Students, which does an enormous amount of good, reliable research in the post-secondary field.

In response to the very vague comments on post-secondary educational funding in the budget pertaining to addressing the funding problem in the face of increased enrolment, the budget says, "A more permanent approach to allocating university operating grants will be introduced which will take into account recent enrolment growth and will include funding recognition" for the progression of these students through subsequent years of study.

The time to take that permanent approach was in the budget, not some unknown time in the future.

As I come close to the conclusion of my remarks on this budget, I would like to make some comments on the Ontario economy. This budget was not encouraging from either a short-term economic perspective or a longer-term one.

In the short term, we are facing higher inflation, higher unemployment and slower growth. The risk of recession cannot be ruled out. In the longer term, the government has not given any indication that it has a strategy to manage economic growth in the future. There was barely a mention of free trade in the budget. Certainly, there is no serious commitment to assist workers who will be displaced by free trade. There were no innovative programs announced on behalf of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology.

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Despite all the talk about world-class Ontario, I am convinced this government has no idea how to get there from here and on what its own role should be. Looking at just two economic programs, I find that while they both had the potential to make a difference, neither of them have.

First of all, the creation of the industrial restructuring commissioner "to assist in the transition to a more technologically and competitively-oriented international marketplace" came out of the legislative committee studying plant closures and layoffs. But by the time this government actually got around to appointing its commissioner, it had its comfortable majority and so neglected to give the commissioner power to actually do anything.

One of the first industries supposed to have been looked at was the food processing industry, but one and a half years later, we have not heard a peep from them. The union that represents the food processing workers has yet to be contacted by the commissioner's office. What could have been a viable industry in this province was left to deteriorate, first by the Tory government and now by the Liberals.

The Premier's high-technology fund is another promising idea that was never fully thought through. Announced with such haste, the fund could not even spend its money in its first two years, a \$200-million funding allocation in the first two years, because it had no idea what to spend it on or how to spend it. The only reason it is now spending its full funding allocation is

because it is giving away most of it through tax breaks to corporations, rather than through a comprehensive plan on how the money should be spent.

Yet, with all this talk about high technology, we have just seen two really world-class Ontario high-tech firms, Connaught Laboratories and Lumonics pass into foreign hands. Surely, if this government was serious about an Ontario-based, Canadian-owned industry, it could have done something about these two.

The budget talks about increased investment in equipment and machinery, but the truth of the matter is this equipment and machinery consists largely of foreign imports. Our imports of equipment and machinery in Canada were up \$6.9 billion last year to over \$40 billion.

I know I have asked this question many times before, but I do not know how this is allowed to happen. Why is it that we as a country, the third largest producer of minerals in the entire world, are the number one importer of mining machinery? It makes no sense whatsoever.

If Ontario wants to be competitive in the global markets of the next century, it had better stop depending on its natural resources and on foreign capital, and develop a true economic plan.

This afternoon, I have tried to say to members of this assembly that we do not have a tax system that is appropriate and that is fair to a lot of its citizens. I have tried to say the government has no vision. It does not know where it is going. Everything is done on an ad hoc basis. Huge amounts of new revenues flow in, without any overall plan as to where it is trying to take us as a society or as an economy. For those reasons, I am compelled to move an amendment to the motion by the Treasurer yesterday afternoon.

**The Acting Speaker:** Mr Laughren moves, seconded by Mr Wildman, that the resolution moved by the Treasurer on Wednesday, 17 May "that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government" be amended by deleting the words following "that" and adding thereto the following:

"This House, recognizing that the 1989 budget fails the fundamental test of tax fairness, condemns the government for:

"Refusing to implement a minimum corporate income tax on profits, and instead taxing payrolls and jobs,

"Failing to distribute taxes fairly with an inheritance tax or other wealth tax for the richest of our citizens,

"Sheltering the banks and financial institutions from any new capital taxes,

"Introducing virtually no relief for low-income families, and continuing the absurdity of taxing families that earn \$10,000 below the poverty line,

"Broadening and increasing consumption taxes that hit low- and middle-income people the hardest,

"Ignoring the north when it comes to investment and jobs, and instead using it as a source of tax revenue,

"Continuing to starve municipalities and school boards of much-needed funding, while simply piggybacking on the pain of the unfair tax increases of the Wilson budget,

"Failing to address adequately the needs of those on social assistance and those who dine at food banks,

"Therefore, this House declares its lack of confidence in this government."

On motion by Mr J. M. Johnson, the debate was adjourned.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Hon Mr Phillips:** Pursuant to standing order 13, I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

As members are aware, Monday, 22 May is Victoria Day, so the House will not be sitting.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, we will continue with the debate on the budget motion and on Thursday morning we will consider private members' business.

The House adjourned at 1637.

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**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES****TRANSIT SERVICES**

**68. Mr Cousens:** Would the Minister of Transportation give the following information on GO Transit parking lots: (1) How many automobile parking lots exist for the GO Transit system? (2) What is the capacity of each parking lot? (3) What plans are presently approved to expand parking spaces in each of the lots, and how many new spaces will be created? (4) What plans are in long-term planning to expand parking lots, and how many additional spaces will be created? (5) How many parking violation tickets have been issued on GO Transit parking lots during January

1989 (please indicate the number of tickets issued at each parking lot)? (6) What is the maintenance budget for each parking lot for fiscal years 1988-89 and 1989-90? (7) What is the percentage of utilization of each parking lot? [Originally tabled 20 February 1989. Tabled 4 May 1989]

See sessional paper 34.

**ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS\***  
(130 seats)

Second Session, 34th Parliament

**Lieutenant Governor: Hon Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC**

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|---|--|
| <p>Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)<br/>           Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)<br/>           Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)<br/>           Beer, Charles (York North L)<br/>           Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)<br/>           Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)<br/> <b>Bradley, Hon James J.</b>, Minister of the Environment (St Catharines L)<br/>           Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)<br/>           Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)<br/>           Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)<br/>           Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)<br/>           Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)<br/>           Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)<br/> <b>Caplan, Hon Elinor</b>, Minister of Health (Oriole L)<br/>           Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)<br/>           Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)<br/>           Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)<br/>           Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)<br/>           Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)<br/> <b>Conway, Hon Sean G.</b>, Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)<br/>           Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)<br/>           Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)<br/>           Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)<br/>           Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)<br/>           Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)<br/>           Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)<br/> <b>Curling, Hon Alvin</b>, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)<br/>           Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)<br/>           Dietsch, Michael M. (St Catharines-Brock L)<br/> <b>Eakins, Hon John F.</b>, Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)<br/> <b>Edigheffer, Hon Hugh A.</b>, Speaker (Perth L)<br/>           Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)<br/> <b>Elston, Hon Murray J.</b>, Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Financial Institutions (Bruce L)<br/>           Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)<br/>           Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)<br/>           Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)<br/>           Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)<br/>           Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)<br/>           Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)<br/>           Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)</p> | <p><b>Fontaine, Hon René</b>, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)<br/> <b>Fulton, Hon Ed</b>, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)<br/>           Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)<br/> <b>Grandmaître, Hon Bernard C.</b>, Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)<br/>           Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)<br/>           Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)<br/>           Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)<br/>           Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)<br/>           Hart, Christine E. (York East L)<br/>           Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)<br/> <b>Hošek, Hon Chaviva</b>, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)<br/>           Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)<br/>           Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)<br/>           Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)<br/>           Kanter, Ron (St Andrew-St Patrick L)<br/> <b>Kerrio, Hon Vincent G.</b>, Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)<br/>           Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)<br/>           Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)<br/>           Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)<br/> <b>Kwinter, Hon Monte</b>, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)<br/>           Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)<br/>           LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)<br/>           Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)<br/>           Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)<br/>           Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)<br/>           MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)<br/>           Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)<br/>           Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)<br/> <b>Mancini, Hon Remo</b>, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)<br/>           Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)<br/>           Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)<br/>           Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)<br/>           McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)<br/>           McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)<br/>           McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)<br/>           McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)<br/>           McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)<br/> <b>McLeod, Hon Lyn</b>, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)<br/>           Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)</p> |
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Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)  
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)  
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste Marie NDP)  
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)  
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)  
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)  
**Nixon, Hon Robert F.**, Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Brant-Haldimand L)  
**Oddie Munro, Hon Lily**, Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)  
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)  
**O'Neil, Hon Hugh P.**, Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)  
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)  
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)  
**Patten, Hon Richard**, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)  
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)  
**Peterson, Hon David R.**, Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)  
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)  
**Phillips, Hon Gerry**, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)  
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)  
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)  
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)  
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)  
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)  
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)  
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)  
**Ramsay, Hon David**, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)  
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-Walkerville L)  
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)  
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

**Riddell, Hon Jack**, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)  
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)  
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)  
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)  
**Scott, Hon Ian G.**, Attorney General (St George-St David L)  
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)  
**Smith, Hon E. Joan**, Solicitor General (London South L)  
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)  
**Sorbara, Hon Gregory S.**, Minister of Labour (York Centre L)  
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)  
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)  
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)  
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)  
**Sweeney, Hon John**, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)  
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)  
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)  
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)  
**Ward, Hon Christopher C.**, Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)  
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)  
**Wilson, Hon Mavis**, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)  
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)  
**Wong, Hon Robert C.**, Minister of Energy (Fort York L)  
**Wrye, Hon William**, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

\*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario

**Second Session, 34th Parliament**  
Tuesday, 23 May 1989



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, 23 May 1989

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### FLOODING

**Mr Pouliot:** I would like to inform the House of a situation in the riding of Lake Nipigon, more specifically the very small and isolated reserve of Pic Mobert located a few kilometres west of White River, where 225 people were evacuated yesterday due to flooding.

I understand from the Ministry of Natural Resources that free camping space has been made available for the residents at White Lake Provincial Park. Chief Stan Sabourin informs me today that there are 33 families in White Lake Provincial Park, 14 elders are lodged in the White River Continental Motel and three elders are presently in hospital.

Several people have complained of diarrhoea and sick stomach. In fact, the chief also stated that two dogs which drank the water yesterday died; it had to be contaminated.

The Ministry of Natural Resources in Wawa informs us that it is monitoring the situation with the Ontario Provincial Police, and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in Thunder Bay is sending two staff members to monitor the situation.

The chief also stated that he had contacted Ontario today for financial assistance and was denied.

### DEFICIT

**Mr Pope:** I think it is important to note that the budget gives the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) and the government of Ontario a once-a-year opportunity to make a statement as to the financial state of affairs of the provincial government and some comment on the economy of the province.

In order for people to understand the budget, they should be assured of sound and consistently applied, generally accepted accounting principles. The Treasurer is aware, as others are now becoming aware, that in fact over \$823 million was preflowed by this government in March of this year on account of obligations of this government for the financial year 1989-90, but this money was put into the expenditures of the 1988-89 fiscal year and not the 1989-90 fiscal

year. The effect of this is to increase expenditures from \$35.1 billion in 1988-89 to \$38.5 billion in 1989-90; not a seven per cent increase in expenditures, as the Treasurer has said, but 10 per cent.

In fact, in the face of a situation where we are getting more tax revenues in this province than ever before in the hands of the provincial government, more expansion of services in some sectors in the hands of the provincial government, the deficit position of this government is not improving. The deficit last year was \$700 million. If you take into account generally accepted accounting principles, this year it is over \$1 billion. The situation is worse.

### AVIAN EMBLEM

**Mr Ballinger:** Later this afternoon I will be introducing a private member's bill, the Avian Emblem Act, a bill to adopt the common loon, *Gavia immer*, as Ontario's official bird. In a contest sponsored by the Ministry of Natural Resources, more than 5,000 children aged nine to 11 wrote about the birds they thought would best represent this great province of ours. By an overwhelming margin, their choice was the common loon.

The winning entry was by Matthew Conroy of Walden, Ontario. Matthew is a student at George Vanier School in the nearby town of Lively, just west of Sudbury, in the riding of Nickel Belt. His eloquent explanation of the loon's unique attributes won him top honours in the contest for best entry. In his winning submission he said: "I looked up some interesting things about loons that would make it perfect for Ontario's official bird. It is the most ancient of Canadian birds. The loon is deliberately designed as a fish-catching machine and Ontario has lots of lakes and fish."

Matthew concluded his submission by adding the loon "could be killed by acid rain, since the pollution kills the fish that they eat. Maybe if we use the loon as our bird, it will help fight the pollution."

I think Matthew's entry aptly describes the reasons for singling out this species in the rationale behind the motion put forward in the bill. Once the loon is adopted as Ontario's avian

emblem, all provinces in Canada will have official birds.

### NURSING SERVICES

**Mr Wildman:** I want to bring to the attention of the House the situation at the Hornepayne Community Hospital. That hospital cannot now accommodate deliveries, births, because of a shortage of nurses. The mothers-to-be have to travel a few days before their due dates to Hearst, at least 75 miles away, if not to Thunder Bay or another centre, to deliver their children. The infants then must be cared for during the days at the hospital and the mother is away from her family.

The Ministry of Northern Development is funding a new hospital facility for Hornepayne, a much needed one, one for which we have been working for some time. This new facility will have a delivery room, but unless the Ministry of Health recognizes that the nursing shortage is not just a Toronto phenomenon but one that affects even very small communities like Hornepayne, we are not going to be able to staff the delivery room, so people will not be able to use it. Mothers will continue to have to travel outside of the community at great inconvenience to them and their families, despite the fact that there will be a new, shiny facility available, with state-of-the-art equipment, that could be used but would be vacant.

It would be a shame if the ministry could not allow the deliveries to take place in Hornepayne because of a shortage of nurses.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**Mr McCague:** I am sure the Minister of Housing (Ms Hošek) will have noted in today's Toronto Sun the column by Richard Rohmer, one of my constituents, in which he talks about the urgency of housing in Toronto and in particular the development of the Downsview lands. He points out that the federal member is all in favour of it. He points out that Alan Redway, the new and knowledgeable Minister of State (Housing), should be in favour of it, and he also suggests that our Minister of Housing should be fully behind the project.

1340

I am particularly interested in this because there is a tremendous amount of traffic on Highway 400, which I have to use periodically. I think if there was 25 per cent or 50 per cent of affordable housing in this general area, it would keep some of the traffic off the highways, because it is right at the end of the subway.

I urge the Minister of Housing to work with her federal counterparts to look towards the development of those lands for affordable housing.

### EASTER SEAL RUN/WALKATHON

**Mr Beer:** It is a pleasure for me to remind the House that this Sunday, 28 May, is the 13th annual Persechini/Easter Seal 10K Run/Walkathon for Easter Seals in Newmarket. Since its inception, over \$500,000 has been raised for Easter Seals, and this year's target is between \$60,000 and \$70,000.

With us today in the east gallery is Joe Persechini, the founder of the run, and this year's co-chairman, David Blackwell, program manager of Newmarket's Rogers cable station. I think we should give them a warm welcome here to the House. Later today, they will be presenting these handsome running shoes to Ontario's top jogger, the Premier (Mr Peterson).

I urge everyone in the greater Toronto area to come to Newmarket on Sunday morning at 9:30 am, at the old Davis Tannery to help Timmy and Tammy and Joe and Dave make this the best run ever.

### NATIVE EDUCATION

**Mr Reville:** The Wandering Spirit Survival School in Riverdale is the only native way school in Toronto. The program includes regular school subjects, plus native culture and Ojibway language classes.

The school has a parent council called the Ahkinomagai Kemik Education Council. Four years ago, the Ministry of Education agreed to provide three years of funding to help build the parent council, yet the funding for the third and final year, 1988-89, did not arrive.

After a complicated runaround, the Minister of Education (Mr Ward) met with Ahkinomagai last September and in a recent, undated letter the ministry has offered not the \$80,000 originally expected, nor the \$53,000 under more recent negotiations, but \$25,000. Is that the value of the ministry's commitment to native way education or is this just one more example of white justice?

**Mr Ruprecht:** I rise to ask for unanimous consent to speak on the Federal Republic of Germany Day.

**The Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent?  
Agreed to.

### FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY DAY

**Mr Ruprecht:** On behalf of the government of Ontario, I rise for the purpose of recognizing an important event that took place on this day 40

years ago—23 May 1949, to be correct—the establishment of a free and democratic republic in the western part of Germany. Due to the division of Europe, which we and all Europeans hope will be overcome one day, the Federal Republic of Germany can, until now, offer freedom and justice only to Germans living in the western part of the country.

The promulgation of the federal Constitution on 23 May 1949 is of great historic significance, as this date marks the inclusion of Germany in the community of free and democratic nations. Since then, the Federal Republic of Germany has become a trusted friend and ally of Canada and the other nations of the free world. It has grown to be one of the most important trading nations of this planet and, as such, has become a reliable trading partner of Canada. On many occasions it has shown that it is a committed supporter of democratic and civil rights all over the world.

Of course, we recognize the important contributions German Canadians have made to the cultural and economic development of Ontario for more than 300 years. Our province has become enriched because German compatriots have brought with them their love of music, art and architecture. Moreover, they have contributed to our flourishing economy by bringing with them their sense of accuracy and punctuality in working, as well as their experience with an excellent system of professional training. We have also profited greatly from the participation of German Canadians in all the parts of our cultural, professional and public life.

In appreciation of this contribution and in recognition of the close bond of friendship that unites the people of Ontario, Canada and the German nation, the government of Ontario has proclaimed 23 May 1989 as the Federal Republic of Germany Day.

I am delighted to introduce to the House the consul general of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr von Hassell, and 15 presidents of German-Canadian organizations.

[Remarks in German]

**Mr Farnan:** On behalf of the Ontario New Democratic Party, I welcome this opportunity to extend our best wishes on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany. Since its founding, the German nation has developed into one of the most stable democracies in the world and is a valued friend and ally of the community of free nations. This 40th anniversary celebration is meaningful and is a joyous reminder of the ability of a nation's people to recover in spite of

adversity and to embrace and protect the ideals of democracy.

Cambridge, like so many other communities across Canada, is proud of our multicultural makeup and grateful for the presence and contribution to our community life of the German Club of Cambridge. Waterloo county has benefited significantly from the skills, talents, work ethic and zest for life the German immigrants have contributed.

Indeed, our region recognizes this influence by means of our annual Oktoberfest celebration and I would like to take this opportunity to invite all members of the House to visit Waterloo county to experience for themselves the warmth of Canadian hospitality, German style, at any time of the year.

As in the Waterloo region, the same is true of Ontario and Canada. The German community has contributed tremendously to the growth and development of Canada, and the influence of Canadians of German origin can be seen across the country, enhancing and enriching our multicultural mosaic. In addition to being involved in all aspects of Canada's labour, business and cultural sectors, the German community has worked to preserve its unique heritage, encouraging the continuance of centuries of customs and traditions by passing them along from one generation to another.

Again, on behalf of the Ontario New Democratic Party, please allow me to add our very best wishes on this occasion, the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany.

**Mr Brandt:** On behalf of the Progressive Conservative caucus, it is my pleasure to join with my colleagues from the other two parties in commemorating the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Much has been achieved since 1949. After the devastation of the Second World War, West Germans began the task of reconstruction. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, an economic miracle took place over the next 10 years and a prosperous society was reborn. However, there remains regret over the division of Germany and the continued separation of the German people.

There are presently more than 500,000 people of German descent living here in our own province. In fact, they make up the third-largest ethnic group in Ontario and have made enormous contributions to our province. One of the most visible and enjoyable aspects of German culture, already commented upon by my friend the

member for Cambridge (Mr Farnan), is the annual Oktoberfest celebration in the Kitchener-Cambridge area which attracts thousands of tourists each year.

Today we join all Ontarians of German descent in commemorating this important anniversary and take the opportunity to pay tribute to the people of West Germany for their tremendous efforts in building a free and open democratic society.

Germany has become a leading industrial nation and a close and important trading partner of both Ontario and Canada. It is my wish that the next 40 years prove to be equally successful for the Federal Republic of Germany, and may our Canadian-German relations continue to strengthen in the months and years ahead.

My very best wishes and congratulations.

1350

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** I rise to ask unanimous consent to give notice of the passing of Bill Foster.

Agreed to.

WILLIAM T. FOSTER

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** I regret to inform the House that William Foster, the chairman of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Deputy Minister of Natural Resources from 1981 to 1983, passed away on Saturday here in Toronto. Bill Foster was a dedicated conservationist and an innovative manager. He leaves an impressive legacy of accomplishment in the resource management field.

Bill joined the Ministry of Natural Resources as a forester in 1948, when the ministry was the Department of Lands and Forests. As head of the ministry's forest protection branch and provincial air service during the 1960s, Bill introduced many important features of our modern forest fire protection system. These include aircraft surveillance, water bombers, a fire danger rating system and a fire control training program.

In 1971-72, Bill was implementation director for organizing the new Ministry of Natural Resources, which replaced the Department of Lands and Forests. In 1972, he was named the Ministry of Natural Resources assistant deputy minister, southern Ontario, a post he held for eight years. During his term as deputy minister, the ministry established forest management agreements between the province and the forest companies, implemented the system of district land use guidelines and laid the groundwork for our current approach of integrated resource management.

On a national level, through the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers, Bill helped develop a national air tanker fleet for forest protection. He was also active in establishing the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre in Winnipeg.

After retiring from the ministry, he became chairman of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. There Bill pursued the authority's plan for conserving green space in urbanized areas. He also took an active interest in the city's waterfront planning.

Bill was most co-operative when I came in as the Minister of Natural Resources, and in a very personal way showed me the commitment that he had to the setting aside of areas that would be of great interest to future generations. I was very pleased to have had personal involvement with Bill.

Conservation in Ontario has lost a dear friend in Bill Foster. I express the condolences of my ministry as well as my personal sympathy to his wife, Vivian, and their three children.

**Mr Wildman:** On behalf of our party, I would like to express our condolences to Mrs Foster, her children and Bill's grandchildren on the passing of the chairman of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

When I was first elected, I came to know Mr Foster, who at that time was serving in his position as assistant deputy minister for southern Ontario. As a northern member, of course, I had less to do with him than I did with his colleague for the north, but I always found Mr Foster, as well as his other colleagues, to be very forthright and helpful to new members in serving their constituents, particularly in those parts of the province that are directly involved with resource development and conservation.

I found Mr Foster to be forthright and helpful, particularly in estimates debates, when we used to do estimates around this place, and when he was given the opportunity to express his views on ministry programs and ways to respond to the need to develop our resources in a sensible and self-sustaining way. As has been indicated by the minister, Mr Foster had a long, distinguished career with the Ministry of Natural Resources and its predecessor, the Department of Lands and Forests. Those of us from the Sault Ste Marie area owe him a great debt for his development of the fire protection service and aviation service, which is now centred in the Sault, when he was serving in the forest protection branch.

When Mr Foster succeeded Dr Reynolds as deputy minister, he served with distinction in a

time of great change in regard to the management of the forest resource in Ontario: the change to the forest management agreements and the emphasis on regeneration and trying to catch up on the backlog that we have experienced in this province for failing to manage our resources as well as we should have over the past years.

After his retirement, as was indicated, Mr Foster served with the conservation authority and was very concerned with preserving green space. He was recently most concerned about inadequate controls on urban growth in this region, and was quoted recently as saying that he felt there were three to four years left to save the Oakridge moraine, which he believed was threatened by urban development.

Certainly, it would be a great tribute to Mr Foster and his work over the years in the service of the people of Ontario if this Legislature and the government of Ontario were to recognize the need for proper green-space conservation in the Metropolitan Toronto area.

Again, on behalf of our party, I would like to extend our sincere sympathy to Mr Foster's wife, Vivian, his children and grandchildren, and to acknowledge the great debt the people of Ontario have to this public servant.

**Mr Pope:** First, I would like to thank the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr Pollock) for allowing me to rise and give the tribute on behalf of our party. It is tough to say goodbye to a friend. Bill Foster had been appointed Deputy Minister of Natural Resources a few months before I arrived on the scene as Minister of Natural Resources. But, as a member of cabinet, I remember the positive response his appointment as deputy minister received from the staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources, who felt that one of their own was now their deputy minister.

Bill Foster, upon becoming deputy minister, almost immediately was embroiled in a problem with respect to parks policy and the Provincial Parks Council. It was a very political issue fought on a very political level and Bill Foster was very worried and frustrated by it, but as we later came to expect of Bill Foster, he worked through it. As a result of his hard work we had a new parks policy announced in Ontario that created 154 new parks and these parks were generally acceptable to all interests.

He was the author of the multiple-use concept, which invaded virtually every aspect of Ministry of Natural Resources policy. He was really the architect of a rapidly expanding reforestation program that did start to catch up on the backlog. He was the author of the community fisheries

involvement program. He, along with Mike Klugman, created the short-term and long-term work programs, in concert with the federal government, which allowed for retraining and for some financial assistance to over 7,000 laid-off resource workers on an annual basis in 1982-83.

Through his hard work, Bill Foster created a whole new system of nonlegalistic, nonformal public consultations, whether it was with the strategic land-use planning process or forest management agreements, with advertised open houses and public forums being held throughout the province. He was responsible for Ontario obtaining the CL-215 water bombers. Many other initiatives that the government of the day took credit for were all the result of the hard work, commitment and dedication of Bill Foster.

I will miss the 7 am meetings. I miss the question: "What does 'no' mean?" I miss the discussions about what we used to call "the other level," namely political considerations that must play a role in every government decision. And I miss Vivian's chocolate-chip cookies. But most of all, Grandpa Bill, Ontario will miss you.

**The Speaker:** I will, of course, when the official Hansard is printed, make certain that a copy is received by Mrs Foster so that your words of sympathy are received.

1400

## STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

### FUNDING OF SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** About two months ago I believe the member for Hamilton West (Mr Allen) asked me what the two priorities of my ministry were for the coming fiscal year. I indicated that they were social assistance reform and beginning to deal with the community wage problem. I announced the one last Thursday.

Our government is committed to strengthening and improving the quality of services delivered by community-based social agencies.

Low wages contribute to high staff turnover which threatens the stability, continuity and effectiveness of these important community services. I am committed to helping those workers who are among the lowest paid in the social service system.

Effective this September we will improve the wages of more than 15,000 workers in our community agencies.

The Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon), in his recent budget, earmarked funding for social service employees who are working directly with chil-

dren, adults and families in our communities. In support of their vital roles I am announcing the following initiative.

We will target \$88.8 million on an annual basis in new resources to improve the rates for visiting homemakers and increase the incomes of workers who assist people with developmental disabilities, workers providing attendant care to people with severe physical disabilities, community staff working with young offenders and individuals who assist victims of family violence.

My ministry will direct this additional funding to support agencies where wages are lowest, or staffing resources need supplementation.

Our efforts will be concentrated on front-line workers.

This additional funding will allow community agencies to retain experienced employees and, as a result, these agencies should be able to deliver their essential services more effectively.

We are developing a process and framework for the equitable distribution of funds in each service sector. To achieve this it is critical to actively engage provincial and community organizations in planning.

Increasing the compensation level for visiting homemakers will be achieved through a rate reform process, building on the recommendations of the interministerial advisory committee on visiting homemakers.

Community agencies working with young offenders will receive funds to hire additional staff and to improve salaries.

Increased compensation will make community agency jobs more attractive to those students considering career opportunities.

We are well aware that these funds do not address all of the compensation issues that we have in our community agencies. However, this is a major step in a process that we began three years ago.

It is a continuing process.

We will maintain the momentum to continue our government's investment in the stability and the expansion of Ontario's community social services.

## RESPONSES

### FUNDING OF SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

**Mr Allen:** One is tempted to claim two victories within two weeks. Quite clearly, what the minister says with respect to moving in the right direction is certainly true of this statement. But I want to reserve any undeserved accolades

until I can work out a little bit of the mathematics and see exactly how this is spread across a very important field of community services which touches, as the minister indicated, everything from correctional officers to visiting homemakers to developmental centre community living attendant care workers.

The gap that has existed in many of those instances between the work they perform, the compensation they get and the compensation they get in equivalent government ministries, has come pretty close to about \$5,000 on the average in many of the schedules of compensation, so there is a lot of ground to be made up.

What concerns me most of all about the announcement, I think, is that the ministry has a habit now of plunging into this issue every three or four years with a major grant announcement to top things up for the community workers, and then things sort of slide back into the old game plan again. We begin to lose ground all over again: we find ourselves in a crisis with homemakers, the Red Cross or the Victorian Order of Nurses, problems escalate and then we do it all over again.

Surely the minister and the government need to be addressing the whole question of the systematic way in which collective bargaining with the voluntary sector takes place. The minister is a hidden member of the bargaining team in the community sector, but he is a direct member when it comes to the government agencies, and the result is there are two different collective bargaining regimes that exist there and that is what keeps generating the big gap.

So what I would like to hear from the minister at some point in time on this very subject—and perhaps from other members of the government, like the Minister of Labour (Mr Sorbara), who would also be involved—is some resolution of the collective bargaining impasse which keeps on generating this gap that creeps up on us after we have made a big effort to close it.

Some thanks to the minister for moving in the right direction—let me go back to my calculator and see how he has made out—and will he please tackle the other problem, because it is the basic one that generates this problem for us.

**Mrs Cunningham:** Once again, we are in a position to say congratulations and we hope it will make a real difference. I am not one to say that throwing money at problems solves them, but I think in this instance we have in fact picked a good one in which to increase wages. In my very quick mathematics, people out there working in the profession—and I am now talking about

homemakers and people who work in special agencies with the developmentally handicapped, people who are working with young people who have been in difficulty with the court system—were probably looking off the top at some \$5,000 improvement to base salaries, and I hope that is exactly where it goes.

The minister talked about something that is very important to the workers out there, “Our efforts will be concentrated on front-line workers.” That is not to say we do not understand that we have to improve ratios at the same time. I think our position really is that we hope the minister will communicate with the agencies and with the staff who are working in the field, so that this program can be implemented so it helps the people we are there to assist, and that is young people and their families.

Second, as I said before, my job is to keep an eye on how the process moves along and the results of the implementation. We will be looking at more people going into the colleges to get proper training, we will be looking at people who work in that field staying in it and staying with the agencies, so that we can have some continuity, and we will also be looking at the families so they can report back and say, “Yes, it has made a difference.” We will be watching carefully and we thank the minister for his efforts with regard to special families and special children.

**Mr Jackson:** I wish to respond to the minister’s brief announcement as well, because my phone has been ringing all weekend with the implications for social services in the Burlington and Halton area.

Unfortunately, we have a government whose theme is very clearly that it will take first and then hand out a smaller portion, a few days subsequent to a budget. The fact of the matter is that the VON services in Burlington and Halton alone will be charged an additional \$40,000 as a direct result of the payroll tax increase. The Red Cross has to come up with an additional \$15,000. Halton Helping Hands, a group that has never had to cope with these kinds of budgetary deficits, is now going to be driven into a deficit position, because of the five types of taxes that have been put on those groups that deliver their services to seniors and shut-ins in the Halton region, and specifically in Burlington, because they are so dependent on their automobiles.

The fact of the matter is that announcements like these today should be put in clear perspective about the impact they have on the bottom-line operation of these services in a community. That

is a Band-Aid approach to a serious underfunding problem that is occurring all too frequently with social services, not only in Burlington but across this province.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

1410

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### SOLICITOR GENERAL’S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Reville:** I return with regret to the question that has been bothering people over the weekend, ever since the news broke on Thursday about the Solicitor General’s involvement. I say “with regret,” because the questioning in the Legislature and outside afforded the Solicitor General a number of opportunities to indicate that she realized she had made an error in judgement, but she did not take advantage of those opportunities.

She said in response to one of my questions, “I went strictly to make sure and to reassure that these accusations were unfounded, as I expected they would be and as indeed they were.” That does not explain why the Solicitor General made the telephone call some two hours later, and I wonder if she would explain that to the Legislature now.

**Hon Mrs Smith:** Yes, I wish to do that. As the member has said, I had been misled in the early instance. When I received a second phone call, I certainly was, by this point, not happy with the person by whom I had been misled. Unfortunately, I had answered the phone and had to speak to her. I simply wanted to record exactly what I said to her, so that if the matter were ever questioned, it would be there available for anyone to see.

That is all I did, repeat my conversation, that the person who had previously misled me had indeed phoned back, had indeed suggested she might be laying complaints. I had told her to do so but that she would do it independently on her own. I had no interest and was no part of it. This is what I recorded.

**Mr B. Rae:** I share with my colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr Reville), and I am sure many other members, a very troubled sense about not only what the Solicitor General did, but also her response on Thursday. She has been given many opportunities to reflect on the appropriateness of her conduct and she has chosen to simply say that she did what she had to do and has not indicated in any way that she feels she has acted inappropriately.

I wonder if the Solicitor General would comment or perhaps reflect on events which took place in this province some 10 years ago, events which also took place federally some 10 years ago, where there was extensive public discussion of the question of contact by various ministers of the crown with members of the judiciary and also with crown attorneys who were involved in the prosecution of a particular case.

In each one of those instances—

**The Speaker:** Question.

**Mr B. Rae:**—whether it was the conduct of Mr Drury, whether it was the conduct of Mr Ouellet, whether it was the conduct of Mr Munro, who resigned and whose resignation was accepted, or whether it was the conduct of Mr Kerr, whose resignation was offered, initially refused and then accepted by the then Premier, Mr Davis—the question was very clear: Conflict of interest between a minister's public obligations and private sentiments with regard to a particular case and the question of involvement with the—

**The Speaker:** Do you have a question?

**Mr B. Rae:** If I may, sir.

**The Speaker:** Please put it.

**Mr B. Rae:** As Leader of the Opposition, I will put my question. My question specifically to the minister is this: Has she had a chance since Thursday to reflect on the appropriateness of her presence in a police station in a case involving a personal friend?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I will repeat that I received a call in the middle of the night, in which the caller in fact said to me that she was in very dire distress over the safety of her brother. I wanted, in an open and forthright way, to respond and reassure her and to do it in such a way that there were witnesses to the fact that I had in no way involved myself in the case, which I in no way did.

**Mr B. Rae:** I wonder if the minister does not understand that simply by being there, simply by stating what she was there for and why she was there, and by making a further phone call two hours later—does she not realize that in doing each of those things, in fact, she was involving herself in the case and she did make an impression on the people who were involved in the case, so that they made a report to that effect? Does she not therefore realize that her conduct as Solicitor General for this province, in involving herself in a private matter, was completely and utterly inappropriate?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I could repeat again that I went up. I said nothing whatsoever about the case. I assured the police who were present that

I wanted no involvement in the case whatsoever. They were reassured, and that is absolutely all. The police were not alarmed in any way. They laid charges, as they had planned. The young man has had his case set down, I believe, but I inquired about the case neither then nor after.

**Mr B. Rae:** It is a little like saying, "I went to the ball game but didn't watch." It does not make sense.

**The Speaker:** Your question is to which minister?

#### EMPLOYER HEALTH LEVY

**Mr B. Rae:** My question is to the Treasurer. Last night on Global television, the Treasurer said that for businesses that presently pay Ontario health insurance plan premiums, the amount of money committed is almost exactly the same with the payroll tax. Is that also the position the Treasurer is taking with respect to the amount of payroll tax being paid by universities, by boards of education and by our municipalities?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Some of the organizations the honourable member refers to pay 100 per cent of the present OHIP premiums and some pay only a part. Naturally, the organizations that pay only part of the premium will be paying more upon payment of the two per cent employer health levy.

**Mr B. Rae:** I would like to give the Treasurer some estimates of how much some of these public bodies, supported by public tax dollars, will in fact be spending.

At the University of Toronto the new payroll tax will add an additional \$4.6 million over what it currently pays. At the University of Ottawa the OHIP costs will jump eightfold, from \$270,000 to an additional \$2.1 million. That is just an example of two universities that are going to be asked to pay this much extra.

I would like to ask the Treasurer: Just what is the logic of introducing a tax on many large, publicly supported employers, who get their money from the Ontario government? What is the logic of giving to them with one hand, then taking away with the other, and forcing them to cut back on other services while he introduces this new tax?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Mr Speaker, I think you are aware that it is one of my duties each fall to announce to the Legislature the level of support for all of these transfer agencies. Obviously, when this money is announced, let's say the responsibilities of the agencies will be taken into consideration, and I hope that the universities

and other transfer agencies will see that this announcement will properly respond to that requirement.

I think we also have to be aware that all of the people working at universities have the advantage of access to our medicare system and the universities will be paying the same share as any other employers. The fact that their budget dates do not correspond in any precise way with our own is something that will have to be taken into consideration at the same time.

**Mr B. Rae:** If the Treasurer is saying that he is guaranteeing in this House that no university, board of education, hospital or municipality will end up suffering as a result of the new payroll tax, let him stand up and say in the House that that is the kind of guarantee.

Can the Treasurer guarantee that the over \$100 million that he is exacting as tribute from all of these publicly supported bodies will in fact be rebated to those institutions so that we do not have more hospital cutbacks, more difficulties in our universities and higher property tax forced on us because of what municipalities are going through?

**The Speaker:** Order. The question has been asked.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** The short answer is no. The honourable member may want some additional information. He will be aware that this year the grants for the partners in these responsibilities, including the colleges, universities, municipalities, school boards, hospitals and so on, are substantial, in the case of universities 7.5 per cent or a bit more.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** How much are you taking back? You give seven per cent and take two per cent back.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I have already indicated to the honourable member who is interrupting, if he was listening, that in the grants that are announced year by year, all of these matters will have to be taken into consideration. But in response to the honourable member's question, the answer is no.

**Mr Brandt:** Before I ask my first question, I wonder if we could get some clarification from the government House leader as to whether the Premier (Mr Peterson) is expected to be here this afternoon so that we can set up the agenda for our questions.

**Hon Mr Conway:** As I have indicated in a note to the House leader for the third party, the Premier will not be at question period today.

1420

## HOSPITAL BEDS

**Mr Brandt:** I want to raise my first question with the Chairman of Management Board. I would like to remind the Chairman of Management Board that back in 1986, when he served in the position of Minister of Health, he made a commitment that there would be more than 4,000 new hospital beds constructed in Ontario at a cost of some \$850 million. We now have the report of the Premier's Council on Health Strategy which indicates that this in fact could be the wrong way to go in relation to the construction of those hospital beds.

I wonder if the Chairman of Management Board could advise this House whether he stands by his original commitment of 1986 for the construction of more than 4,000 hospital beds or whether he has a changed position relative to the report of the Premier's health council which indicates that they are not needed.

**Hon Mr Elston:** The report has just been made public and obviously is part of the overall government policy development. It will be reviewed in appropriate fashion by cabinet.

**Mr Brandt:** I might remind the minister that back in 1986 he indicated that there was a two-year wait for chronic care. He also pointed out some of the extremely astonishing numbers with respect to the increased percentage of elderly in our population and said that there would be a very critical need for the expansion of the number of beds that he identified in 1986, if not beds over and above the amount he outlined at that time.

I wonder if the minister could indicate whether he intends to keep that commitment as it relates to the construction of those particular beds. As he served previously in that ministry and is now the holder of the purse-strings of the province to a certain extent, what is it his intention to do with respect to hospital construction?

**Hon Mr Elston:** I, along with my cabinet colleagues, will consider in due course the report which has just been made available. As the member has indicated, at particular times the needs were expressed by me in the sense of waiting lists and otherwise.

Since 1986, it is remarkable to note the increase in activity in community services and the activities being carried on between the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan) currently and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney), and in relationship to those, the support role played by the Minister without

Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr Mancini) and the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs Wilson). It has become clear that the time to examine is now.

In light of this report and otherwise, we will be looking at all of the questions which are raised as a result of the filing of the report. It is a very good report. There is a lot of excellent consideration being given by people who have a very clear interest and a new perspective on the way things are being done.

From my point of view, I am very pleased to be able to participate in the examination of all of the funding issues, as all of my cabinet colleagues do when we come to making decisions with respect to delivery of programs in the province.

**Mr Brandt:** I gather the message is that the minister is going to break his commitment, because he has indicated that he now has a new revelation with respect to the future for hospitals in this province.

I would like to remind the minister that back in 1986 on 15 August, when he was speaking as Minister of Health, he made a commitment for some 201 chronic care beds and 105 acute care beds to the region of Durham; some 380 acute and 200 chronic care beds to Peel; 111 chronic care beds to Chedoke McMaster Hospitals; 40 chronic care beds to Willett Hospital; 175 acute and 156 chronic care beds to Halton; a total of 176 new chronic care beds for the north, and some 300 beds for the Ottawa regional area.

I would like to ask the minister, recognizing if I might that these communities have gone out on fund-raising drives to raise the necessary supplementary funding required in order to construct these particular facilities whether he is now saying that those efforts are for naught, that they are wasted. What are these communities to do, as he has now broken his commitment?

**Hon Mr Elston:** I have not broken my commitment. The member should know that what we are asking in this particular government is that people actually develop a much stronger partnership and delivery of care and services, not only in the community but also with respect to community hospitals.

I can tell the honourable gentleman that the report which is made from a group of people with a perspective expressed well in the statement by Mr Aitken and otherwise allows us to examine the manner in which we deliver services to the population in the province. From that point of view, I think we are looking at providing

first-rate care and good-quality care to the people of Ontario.

That is our commitment. It is the commitment of the current Minister of Health and it is the commitment of the current Minister of Community and Social Services. This report is another basis upon which we can make informed decisions with respect to delivery of services, whether they be in hospitals, communities or otherwise.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Runciman:** My question is to the Solicitor General. Most of us on this side of the House are mystified and somewhat alarmed about the Solicitor General's reaction to the events in Lucan that were revealed last week. When we take a look at the London Free Press, the minister is quoted on the weekend as saying that she denied making an error in judgement: "In retrospect, I don't think I'd do anything differently."

That is an amazing response. When asked about this last week, the Premier (Mr Peterson) said that after seeing the OPP report, he agonized over whether or not to remove the minister from her responsibilities. Is the minister suggesting that the Premier has not discussed the results of the OPP report with her? How can she continue to stand in this House and say she did nothing wrong? How could she say in her own community that she would do the same thing again?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I do not know what the particular report is that the member for Leeds-Grenville has, but if he had been watching television on Thursday he would have heard my response, which at the time was that indeed I believed I had done nothing wrong. I acted under difficult circumstances, but I would undoubtedly weigh into the matter the grief I had caused the Premier—those were the words I used—and probably would not go out again.

**Mr Runciman:** This whole business reeks of favouritism and special treatment, not only in respect to the minister's friends and the friends of the Liberal Party of Ontario, but also in respect to the treatment by the Premier of the province of this particular minister, this wife of Don Smith, the chief fund-raiser of the Liberal Party, the former president of the Liberal Party of Ontario. Those are the facts.

Does the minister not appreciate the messages that her conduct and actions and her leader's conduct and actions are sending out the people of

this province? Will she not do the right thing and submit her resignation?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** The answer is no.

**Mr Runciman:** The minister does not want to deal with that very serious question and request. I will take a different tack. This minister has on numerous occasions, as has her leader, spoken about policy in reference to the police in this province. We have seen a recommendation of the Race Relations and Policing Task Force that also calls for even stronger views in respect to the investigation of police officers charged with serious offences.

Does the minister, I assume, continue to support that policy? If indeed she does, how can she advocate an investigation of her, the results of which have been kept secret? It is a totally different standard for her from the one that she is putting in place for the cops on the beat. How can she support that? How can she stand in the House and and say that is all right?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** The report was ordered by the Premier to be doubly certain for political reasons. He has probably satisfied himself thoroughly that there was absolutely nothing there, so he did not ask for my resignation.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. New question, the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr B. Rae:** I would ask the minister to clearly answer this question. Is she now admitting that she made a mistake, yes or no?

1430

**Hon Mrs Smith:** The answer is simple; the answer is no. I said I did not and I have remained with that. I said I have discomfited the president—the Premier.

**Mr B. Rae:** He is not yet the president.

I would like to ask the minister this simple question. Since she is not prepared to admit that she made a mistake—and personally I cannot believe my ears when I hear the minister saying that—I will then ask the minister this question: What happens to those thousands of other people out there who do not know the minister's phone number, who do not know the minister's family and who feel they are being abused, potentially possibly, or they do not belong to the same country club or whatever it may be and feel they are being abused?

I want to ask the minister quite directly, what is the standard of conduct here that we are applying? What happens to all those people who do not know the Solicitor General and who

cannot get in touch with her at two o'clock in the morning?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** The member will be interested to know that as of today my phone number is in the phone book with "MPP" beside it for anyone to phone. I very much question whether I would have done much different if it had been someone else's child in the same distress.

**Mr Pope:** I cannot believe that. I just cannot believe that answer.

## DEFICIT

**Mr Pope:** I have a question for the Treasurer. Hidden deep in page 59 of the budget statement are two numbers with respect to advance payments: the first with respect to advance payments on capital account of \$410 million, the second to advance payments on municipal affairs in the amount of \$413 million.

Will the Treasurer confirm that on 30 March and 31 March, with respect to the 1989-90 fiscal year, one day before that fiscal year started he had automatically deposited by automatic deposit system in the accounts of municipalities across this province \$413 million on account of 1989-90 obligations of this government?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I think it is appropriate that the payment was made as soon as it possibly could have been, because it was as a result of revenues coming from the government of Canada that had not been predicted by it or expected by us. It seems to me that, rather than simply putting it in the sock, so to speak, the sooner I could pay it to the municipalities and the school boards on account of their requirements the better.

The honourable member will be aware that similar advance payments have been listed for this particular year for next year. Although they do not exactly balance in number, the concept is the same: that the money should be paid when the money is available. I believe that was a considerable benefit to school boards and municipalities.

**Mr Pope:** And it just happened that this miraculous occurrence was on the last day of the fiscal year just passed. It just happened that it was on 31 March, the last possible day, that \$413 million to municipal transfers and \$410 million in capital advances were made. It just happened that it was the last possible day.

Will the Treasurer admit that the effect of this transfer is that in fact we have a 10 per cent increase in expenditures in 1989-90 over 1988-89, a 10 per cent increase in expenditures in reality, from \$35.1 billion to \$38.5 billion, and

,in reality the deficit position of this province is deteriorating at the very time when he is getting more revenue than ever before?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** The budget critic for the third party has as one of his responsibilities, I suppose, to make the budget look different from what it is. But in fact the numbers are presented here, put forward by the officials of the Treasury, that the expenditure increase is approximately seven per cent. As far as the honourable member is concerned, he will know that advance payments have been made well back into the dim and distant history of the Progressive Conservative days.

#### PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

**Mr Neumann:** My question is for the Minister of Culture and Communications. I recently heard that the Canada Development Investment Corp has purchased majority interest in two Canadian textbook publishing firms from Gulf and Western (Canada) Ltd. I am speaking specifically about Ginn and Co and GLC Publishers Ltd. Given the importance of textbook publishing to Canadian culture, would the minister indicate how this purchase relates to the Baie Comeau policy announced in 1985?

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** In July 1985, the then and now minister, Marcel Masse, made an announcement indicating what the cultural policy would be, reflective of the Investment Canada Act, on book publishing and distribution. In effect, the statement indicated that Canadians would like to own and control this particular lucrative sector and that Mr Masse would be monitoring any indirect acquisitions or takeovers from foreign investors.

This was not to say that he was not encouraging foreign investment, but that 51 per cent of any indirect takeovers or acquisitions should be Canadian-owned and Canadian-controlled. The recent purchase by the Canada Development Investment Corp is a reflection of that policy, and we, as a province which houses many of the important partners in book publishing and distribution, welcome Mr Masse's action.

**Mr Neumann:** Now that the Canada Development Investment Corp has controlling interest in these companies, there may be some concern over the future of the textbook publishing industry in Canada. Does the minister know whether the federal government intends to manage and operate the publishing company itself?

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** It is my understanding, since Gulf and Western was unable to find a

purchaser, that the federal government felt obliged to purchase, for an interim period, both of those companies. What it will do now, I understand, will be to find appropriate purchasers. Again we, as a province that has much to benefit from offering a home to both Ginn and GLC through other publishers, are currently negotiating and offering our advice to Mr Masse as to the infrastructure and the terms and conditions of any partnership which might follow. I anticipate that Mr Masse and CDIC would welcome the opportunity of selling both of those particular acquisitions.

#### CHILD CARE

**Mr Allen:** I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services on the subject of the child care cost deduction he announced last week in the context of a budget which failed to announce dollars for an expansion of subsidized day care spaces. On the one hand, the minister has single parents in low-income brackets giving up work and going on family benefits because they cannot find subsidized day care spaces. On the other hand, under his Social Assistance Review Committee reforms he is allowing those on family benefits a day care cost deduction from earnings, but there are no subsidized spaces for them to go to in Toronto and none at all of any kind elsewhere.

Can the minister explain how, on balance, this contradictory pattern of policy facilitates an overall movement from dependence to self-support on the part of those on family benefits or how it benefits the children or advances day care in Ontario?

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** Although there was not a specific reference to expansion of day care subsidies, in fact there is an increase of 4,200 spaces built into my budget. That will be taking place this fiscal year.

The honourable member will be well aware, however, that there has been some disagreement between this minister and some municipalities in this province as to how those spaces are allocated. Therefore, rather than putting more subsidized spaces into the general pool—in other words, adding to the 4,200—we have chosen to go the social assistance route, and that is to allocate those spaces directly to those single parents who want to get back into the workforce. As a matter of fact, the total number of subsidized spaces this year, using the two sources, will be considerably in excess of the 4,200 I just announced.

1440

**Mr Allen:** Let me get some further clarification from the minister. If he is saying that he is allowing access to specifically designated spaces for those who are on social assistance, on the one hand we are obviously moving the day care system backwards towards a welfare-oriented system and away from social services, as was intended.

On the other hand, if that is not what he is saying, one has a situation where, in fact, he is expanding the likelihood of those family benefits recipients accessing the informal day care system because there are no other avenues to pursue, and it is cheaper to do it that way if a person has to pay up front and then get the deduction later.

There are cash-flow problems. A number of factors are pushing these mothers, these single parents, in the direction of accessing ready, handy, quick and cheap day care. Which is it and what is it?

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** Not quite. The honourable member will be aware of the fact that when we announced New Directions for Child Care—I guess it is three years ago; this is the third year of that first three-year cycle—I indicated that the growth in subsidized spaces would be approximately 13,000 over the three years. This year, with the additional 4,200, we will in fact exceed those 13,000. So in terms of the projected growth in the regular day care system, we are meeting and exceeding the target we had set for ourselves.

Apart from that, what we are saying to single parents who have young children and who wish to go back into the workforce is: "We will allow you to deduct from your net earnings your actual cost of child care. Whether you get it in the informal system, whether you get it in the commercial system or whether you get it in the nonprofit system, that's your choice to make." We will set those recognized ceilings sufficiently high so that they can choose any one of those three elements.

Some of them may choose the informal system. Some of them may do that, as they do now, I would suggest to the honourable member, under our employment support initiatives which are currently part of our agreement with many municipalities, I think 23 in the province at the present time.

#### NORTH BAY HEALTH SERVICES

**Mr Harris:** To the Minister of Health: I would ask the minister if she supports the proposal by the Hospital Corp of America to introduce a health care system in North Bay which would

limit accessibility, reduce the quality of care and restrict patients' rights to see the doctor of their choice?

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** I would say to the member for Nipissing that, in fact, the ministry has not yet received a proposal from the community in North Bay which has achieved the objectives he has articulated. I would say, as well, that I know the community is looking at innovative approaches. I would say that I would expect any proposal which would come from the community would have to have community support and consensus before it would be considered by the ministry.

**Mr Harris:** The minister has reneged on a commitment for a joint hospital in North Bay. She talks about a proposal coming from the community, after she wrote a letter to the community and Dr Barkin wrote a letter to the community which said, "Play ball my way, accept this proposal that we're going to have developed for you by an American consultant which will come in and we will pay for, or you don't get, a new hospital." This is the minister's consultant that she recommended, that she paid for. Her ministry people sat on the committee. It has been available for two or three weeks.

I would ask the minister once again not what the community wants, but whether she accepts the proposal, which surely she has had a copy of now for a number of weeks, which the medical association in North Bay clearly indicates encourages saving money at the expense of access to quality health care, encourages capitation of services, encourages doctors to save money by not—

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** The member for Nipissing raises a couple of points that I think should be clarified because I know that he would not want to misrepresent the discussions that are ongoing in his community or the innovative proposals which are being undertaken in a number of different communities to ensure equity and access to effective, quality health care as close to home as possible for the people of those communities. He knows that is my priority and my vision.

I would say to the member that in fact North Bay is not labouring under any misunderstanding. He knows there was a political announcement made in North Bay some time ago; that North Bay has never been included formally in the Ministry of Health planning process for capital development; that I visited North Bay; that I discussed that with John Hobbs, the chairman of the board, and that we said to them

we could assist with some planning dollars for innovation. The community selected the consultants and is now discussing the proposals that have been developed under the auspices of a steering committee in the community.

I would say to him that it is very important that he allow the community consultation to move forward. I will be very interested in the results of those discussions and deliberations to ensure that the people of North Bay have equity of access.

#### DRUG ABUSE

**Mr Adams:** My question is for the Minister of Education. I have been pursuing the minister with questions about the health and fitness of students in Ontario and I have appreciated his answers on health and exercise. I would now like to ask: Are we doing enough to tackle problems associated with the use of legal and illegal drugs by students in our schools?

**Hon Mr Ward:** I would like to compliment the member for Peterborough for his ongoing interest in this very important matter. He will know that quite some time ago, I believe last October, I announced my ministry's response to the report of the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr Black) on the issue of substance abuse in this province. I indicated that this coming September, drug education would be mandatory in every school in Ontario and that I expected the validation process for the new health and physical education guideline would be amended so that drug education could start earlier, for example in kindergarten.

He will know that we set up an advisory committee under the chairmanship of Karl Kinzinger, former director of education of the North York Board of Education, to look at drug abuse policies in schools throughout the province. We have a teacher training component.

In summary, I believe my ministry has been very aggressive in pursuing the very important recommendations made by my colleague the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay. It is hoped that these interventions will go a long way in tackling this very serious problem for many young people in this province.

**Mr Adams:** As I said, I have appreciated the minister's replies to this and my previous questions. Programs are all well and good, but without monitoring, what do we have to show that they are effective? Do we assess the impact of our programs by testing our students' health?

**Hon Mr Ward:** It is a very important question and, again, it reflects just how seriously we take this issue—

Interjections.

**Hon Mr Ward:** —and it surprises me very much that members of the official opposition take very lightly the issue of drug abuse in this province. I think that is very unfortunate, because it is indeed a very serious problem.

The point the member has raised is in terms of the extent to which we measure the effectiveness of these programs. We do in fact benefit from biannual reports by the Addiction Research Foundation, which does a survey of substance abuse in this province. He will also know that the new guidelines for health and physical education envision the establishment of a student health and fitness profile beginning with students in grade 7 and following those students through the balance of their academic careers.

All of this, I believe, will go some distance in ensuring that we are able to monitor the effectiveness of these programs. However, I do have to say that I do not think anything can replace the fact that we need to do as much as we can to involve parents in this issue as well, because clearly they, too, can have a very dramatic impact.

#### ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

**Mr Wildman:** Now that we have gone from one member asking if we are doing enough, we will go to one where we know we are not.

I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Will the minister acknowledge that the recent budget indicates a drop of \$39 million in expenditures for his ministry from the 1987-88 budget? For the third year in a row, that agriculture budget has been dropping. Can the minister, if he acknowledges this, explain where the cuts will be made, and can he assure the farm community that the amount spent in agriculture in this province will not be lowered by redefining the definition of full-time farmer eligible for the Ontario farm tax rebates?

1450

**Hon Mr Riddell:** I just happen to have the facts and figures with me in response to the honourable member's question. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food budgetary spending for 1988-89 is currently forecast at \$527.6 million. This is \$38.9 million below the budget plan of \$566.5 million, mainly due to in-year savings in the farm tax rebate program and in farm income stabilization. At that level, OMAF's budgetary expenditure forecast of \$527.6 million is \$222 million or 72.6 per cent higher than the ministry's 1984-85 spending level.

This growth rate is substantially above the 44 per cent growth rate for total government budgetary spending since 1984-85, and even stronger growth can be seen in direct spending on priority programs—

**The Speaker:** Order. Perhaps you should save the second page for the supplementary.

**Mr Wildman:** Since the minister has admitted that his budget has saved, to use his term, \$39 million from last year, can he explain why there is no commitment in this budget for the extension of the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program, so that farmers in this province will be at a better competitive situation with their counterparts in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Quebec, where they pay between seven and nine per cent interest on borrowed money, instead of the current situation with increasing interest rates in Ontario?

**Hon Mr Riddell:** Part of our provincial strategy is to provide long-term programs whereby all farmers can participate. The day has come when we have to cease trying to implement what we call Band-Aid programs to target just a few farmers. We want programs that all farmers can participate in. That is the reason we have spent so much time on tripartite stabilization, which has been a good program for farmers. That is the reason that we are spending so much time on enriching the crop insurance program, which has been a good program for farmers. All farmers can participate.

Furthermore, under the national agricultural strategy, all provinces are going to have to look at their subsidy program. They have got to cap their subsidy program. So we are really in the forefront of helping our farmers without having to do it with Band-Aid programs, which is a contravention of the national agricultural strategy. Our farmers will compete with the rest of them any day. They have been doing it and they will continue to do it.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Runciman:** This is to the Solicitor General again, in respect to her visit to Lucan and some of the nonanswers we have received in the past.

I wonder if she would elaborate, perhaps in greater detail than she has up to this point, in respect to why she felt it necessary to discuss the situation with the police in Lucan, and why she later phoned back at approximately four in the morning? She has told us, up to this point, that she did it because the parents were out of town.

She subsequently met the parents, yet still proceeded to discuss the situation with the police and then phoned back at a later hour. Can she explain her reasons for doing that?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** When I made the decision to go to Lucan, I believed the parents to be out of town and I was responding to very serious accusations, concerns and anxieties of their daughter, who was concerned about the safety of her brother. I went up there, as the member pointed out, and found out that indeed the father was there. I was also aware that the police were aware of my presence, so I wanted, in an open and forthright way, in the presence of witnesses, to tell them that I had never and would not in any way discuss the case. I had come because of the complaints about police brutality, and having found the father there, would withdraw.

**Mr Runciman:** That is an asinine response, to be about as polite as I can be.

**The Speaker:** Order. Perhaps questions without comments would be helpful.

**Mr Runciman:** Perhaps the minister will not want to respond to this, but I would certainly like to hear her views with respect to the resignation of her colleague the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr Keyes) approximately two years ago. He resigned pending an investigation. The investigation was made public. That was a situation where there was no question that anyone had benefited or could have benefited from the accusations with respect to the member for Kingston and The Islands. Will the minister stand in the House today and indicate whether she felt the action of the member for Kingston and The Islands in that situation was appropriate?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** In my case it was the Premier (Mr Peterson) who got the report, as he requested, and made the decision as to what I should or should not do.

#### MILK INDUSTRY

**Mr Tatham:** My question is for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. As he is aware, I represent Oxford, the dairy capital of Canada. In Oxford, we have 680 dairy farms supporting 1,708 families. The present system of milk marketing in this province allows these families to maintain a standard of living and a quality of life comparable to other segments of society.

I would like to strongly emphasize that milk receipts received at the farm gate contribute \$100 million annually to Oxford county. One must also recognize that the dairy industry in Oxford has a very significant impact on local businesses

such as farm suppliers, service industries, financial and professional services and retail outlets.

In view of the importance of the milk industry to my county and this province, I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture and Food what his response has been to the federal Minister of Agriculture regarding a request to cap the fluid milk price paid to producers until 1 January 1991.

**Hon Mr Riddell:** Last 12 May, the provincial and federal ministers of agriculture had a long, serious discussion about the ramifications of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade signed 7 April of this year, particularly as it pertained to the freezing of commodity prices under the supply management system. The federal minister did not specifically ask that we, as provincial ministers, encourage marketing boards to freeze prices under their jurisdiction, but he did ask for general support to back his efforts in the 7 April agreement.

I have always supported global liberalized trade, but I just fail to see how capping the prices of commodities under the supply management system achieves that goal, because those commodities contribute very little, if at all, to the trade-distorting practices that are going on within this great world of ours.

**Mr Tatham:** Could the minister also state if he is aware of the request to cap prices paid to other sectors of society.

**Hon Mr Riddell:** As I have indicated, the federal minister did not specifically ask that we in the provinces cap commodity prices. He simply asked that we give him general support about what he is endeavouring to do with the GATT and the—

**Mr Wildman:** What are you going to do?

**Hon Mr Riddell:** I am certainly in favour of trade liberalization, but let's look at those commodities that are contributing to the trade-distorting practices. Let's not simply focus on commodities under supply management, which contribute nothing to the trade-distorting practices.

1500

#### NURSING SERVICES

**Mr Reville:** My question is for the Minister of Health. The Premier's Council on Health Strategy issued another instalment today. It did not say anything about the nursing shortage in there.

I wonder if the minister has had a chance to review a case that was reported in the Toronto

Star under the headline "Thirty-year Nurse Blames Dad's Death on Nursing Shortages at Hospital." That was on 9 May 1989 and the nurse in question was Mavis Mackenzie. Her father's name was Arnold. According to Mavis, he was restrained after surgery in a way that contributed to his death.

I wonder if the minister would comment on whether or not it would now be appropriate to do something about the nursing shortage.

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** As the member knows, our hospitals are run by independent boards of trustees. When I receive any complaints by anyone who is dissatisfied with the service, I am always distressed. In the case of hospitals, I forward their request to the hospital for the hospital's investigation.

If at any time the member opposite or any member receives those kinds of complaints, I am always happy to ask the hospital administration or board of trustees to investigate any specific allegations of inappropriate care, because the hospitals have a responsibility to provide the kind of quality patient care at a standard which we expect, and in fact we hold the boards accountable for the decisions they make in this province.

**Mr Reville:** Given the severity of the charges that are being made in this case, I think it would probably be appropriate for the minister to ask her colleague the Solicitor General (Mrs Smith) to order an inquest.

This is not the only case, and I know a number of them have been brought to the minister's attention. There was one involving a Mr Thompson at the Wellesley Hospital where the fact situation was very similar; an elderly gentleman in restraints for several days following surgery. There was another case about which the minister should know, because it was brought to her attention, at the North York Branson Hospital. It was almost the same fact situation but, thankfully, without the fatal result.

I would like the minister to undertake to get back to me with a detailed response in this connection.

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** As the member opposite knows, I am always willing to ask the hospitals to investigate the circumstances fully if he would give me the specific details of any of the specific cases.

He makes very serious allegations. I can tell him I believe that the public hospitals in this province deliver very fine care. That is their charge under the Public Hospitals Act. I know the trustees who run those hospitals take their

responsibilities very seriously and stand accountable for the performance of their hospitals.

If he will send me any specific details, I would be pleased to look into them, but I would point out that in fact we have made great strides in this province in involving nurses and giving them a greater say in the decision-making and the running of our hospitals. The new nursing regulations have been heralded as a significant step, in fact the most significant advance for nurses since they were registered in 1923, to quote the leader of the Ontario Nurses' Association.

I say to the member that I am always pleased to investigate specific instances.

### CHILD CARE

**Mrs Cunningham:** My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. There are some 4,500 families in Metropolitan Toronto alone who are waiting for subsidized child care spaces. If his response to the member for Hamilton West (Mr Mackenzie) is that he is going to add to his plan some 4,200 new spaces, we are hardly beginning to meet the needs of those people we are trying to help get back into the world of work by supporting them at home with child care.

How can the minister's plan change now, given the statements he made in the House this afternoon, to meet this tremendous need out there?

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** Of those 4,200 new spaces this year, I believe about 1,000 are going to Metro. That will boost their total subsidized spaces to something in excess of 19,000. They are there and they are going to remain there.

Prior to my announcement of last Thursday, single parents wishing to go back into the workforce would have to compete for those spaces with everyone else. What I am saying is that all of those spaces are still there and they can continue to compete for them should they choose to do so, or they can take advantage of the second option that I am giving them, and that is to get their day care from any other centre or informally, however they choose. We will cover the cost of that through reducing their net income and therefore impacting on their welfare cheque. So it is in addition to, not in place of.

**Mrs Cunningham:** We should know that in spite of the wonderful numbers of the government—and of course we congratulate it—in this province we should look at the real need. Some three years ago we were looking at 20 per cent of the children whose parents work. They

are the only children whom we can provide child care to, only 20 per cent of the children of parents who work.

Today that number has not changed very much at all. We are probably looking at some 23 per cent. This is getting ahead of us, quite frankly, because more parents are choosing to work. We have a tremendous problem. In meeting the need of these other people, the minister mentioned meeting a certain ceiling and he said that \$7,000 is really what it is going to cost the family for child care. What formula will the minister be using to help these people? What is the ceiling that he is talking about? What should they expect if they do not qualify for a subsidized space? What can they expect from his government?

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** We are still in the process of arriving at those ceilings, but I can tell the member that what we have done is in addition to Metropolitan Toronto, we have acquired from all areas across the province the actual subsidized cost of a space in various places in the province right now and we will be gearing our ceilings to roughly about the midrange of those actual subsidized costs that are out there right now. In other words, they will not be mythical figures. They will relate directly to what the costs are. They will not be the high end. I think I can clearly indicate to the member—let's say, for example, that a space in a Metro-run day care, one of its directly run ones, is about the highest in the province—that our allocation will not allow him to buy that space, but it will allow him to buy spaces in every community in this province.

### HEALTH INSURANCE

**Mr Callahan:** I have a question for the Minister of Health. Over the weekend I had occasion to visit my hospital for an illness and, while I was there, I was informed by one of our local resident doctors that the Toronto Sun had indicated that Ontario had capped Ontario health insurance plan funds. I do not read the Sun on Sunday; I do not read it that often any other day of the week, either. Would the minister perhaps, for the benefit of my constituent, indicate whether that article, as he explained it to me, is correct.

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** I believe that the article that the member was referring to is the report which in fact was released today by the Premier's Council on Health Strategy. As the member would know, the government has just released this report, and I think it is important that we have an opportunity to discuss the recommendations with all of our partners in health care.

## SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

**Mr Allen:** I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services with respect to the impact of the Social Assistance Review Committee reforms on a single disabled person who secures subsidized housing and who will get no benefit until January, and then only the cost-of-living increase, which the six per cent announcement really amounts to. Was it really intended that those reforms would provide so little for that person under the SARC reforms?

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** There are two things. The honourable member will be well aware of the fact that it is over two years ago, I guess, that I made a commitment that I would close the gap between Gains-A and Gains-D, the guaranteed annual income systems for the aged and the disabled. This initiative does that for those disabled people living in the private sector with maximum rent. It closes that gap. They would both be getting the same amount of money. As a matter of fact, I think the Gains-D might get even a little bit more. However, if they are already living in subsidized housing, as the honourable member realizes, that is another form of shelter subsidy. You get two choices. You are either in Ontario Housing Corp subsidized housing or you get a shelter subsidy from my ministry; you do not get both.

1510

## PETITIONS

## TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr D. R. Cooke:** I have a petition with nine names on it, petitioning the Legislative Assembly to insist that the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) negotiate with the Ontario Teachers' Federation towards an equitable settlement.

## HOME CARE

**Mr McCague:** I have a petition which reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We support the expansion of home care and visiting nurses services as the most cost-efficient mode of health care delivery. We therefore want our government to adequately fund the Victorian Order of Nurses."

This contains 133 signatures, and I have affixed mine.

## SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

**Mr Morin-Strom:** I have a petition signed by 600 people in Ontario, many of them from the

community of North Bay. The signatures have been collected by a resident, Genisio Paciocco, who is in the members' gallery right now. The petition reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and in particular, the Minister of Community and Social Services and the Minister of Labour:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That the Minister of Community and Social Services and the Minister of Labour resign for not implementing in a more expeditious manner the recommendations of the Social Assistance Review Committee report, in particular, the increasing of the minimum wage to a level above the poverty line for the working poor."

I have signed and endorsed this petition and present it for serious consideration by this government.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** I am waiting until the private conversations get down a little lower.

## HOMES FOR THE AGED

**Mr Adams:** I have a petition from more than 130 people associated with the Fairhaven Home for Senior Citizens, which is a home of the county and city of Peterborough. It is properly addressed and it begins:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the four per cent capping of the 1989 budget for Fairhaven Home for Senior Citizens will threaten the quality of life for present and future residents, and

"Whereas with such budget capping the home cannot initiate the ministry-advocated respite and outreach services for seniors within the county, which will limit much-needed extended care services available to seniors in the future, and

"Whereas budget capping threatens our home's ability to staff so as to ensure the safe and consistent level of care that our seniors deserve,

"Therefore we support the motions of the city and county councils of Peterborough to review the funding formula for homes for the aged.

"Further, we recommend that the cabinet reconsider its decision to cap the budget for homes for the aged and provide appropriate levels of funding."

## HOME CARE

**Mr M. C. Ray:** I have a petition with 263 signatures of residents of the city of Windsor which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We support the expansion of home care and visiting nurses services as the most cost-efficient mode of health care delivery. We therefore want our government to adequately fund the Victorian Order of Nurses."

I have affixed my signature to that petition, with which I heartily agree.

#### BLOOMFIELD ROAD CENTRE

**Mr M. C. Ray:** I have a second petition, signed by 152 residents of Windsor, and it reads:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Lieutenant Governor to reinstate the residents of Bloomfield/St Joseph and Essex Court area of Windsor as the principal tenants of the provincially owned property located at 3440 Bloomfield Road.

"The Bloomfield Road centre was built to be used and operated by the tenants and residents living within the area through association, namely, the Windsor West Citizens Organization.

"We do not support any attempt or decision by the Windsor Housing Authority or any such association that would surrender our rights and privileges vested in the aforementioned property."

I have affixed my signature as well to that.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Mr Wildman:** I have a petition signed by 117 residents of Ontario, which was circulated by the Simcoe County Injured Workers Association. Many of the people are from Simcoe county.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act, Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1980, chapter 539 as amended by Statutes of Ontario, 1981, chapter 30; Statutes of Ontario, 1982, chapter 61; Statutes of Ontario, 1983, chapter 45; Statutes of Ontario, 1984, chapter 38; Statutes of Ontario, 1984, chapter 58; Statutes of Ontario, 1985, chapter 3; Statutes of Ontario, 1985, chapter 17; and Statutes of Ontario, 1986, chapter 64, section 69."

I have signed my signature to the petition and I am in support of it.

#### RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS

**Mr Pollock:** I have a petition signed by 42 people which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Gentlemen: I am a proud Canadian and proud of my heritage. I am also very aware of the part religious freedom has played in the freedom we as Americans and Canadians now enjoy. Therefore, I protest any human effort to remove from radio or television any program designed to show faith in God, or the removal of Christian songs or carols from the public school system."

I have affixed my signature to this.

#### SCHOOL OPENING AND CLOSING EXERCISES

**Mr Reycraft:** I have four petitions. The first is signed by 12 individuals from the riding of Renfrew North. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas we believe the amendments to regulation 262 relating to the collective recitation of the Lord's Prayer in opening or closing exercises in public schools deprive many Ontario citizens of their established freedoms, we therefore object to this loss of freedom."

I have affixed my signature.

#### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr Reycraft:** I have another petition signed by one other individual from the riding of Renfrew North and addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to 31 May 1982 have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years."

I have again affixed my signature.

#### HOME CARE

**Mr Reycraft:** The third petition is signed by 21 individuals from the riding from Renfrew North and addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We support the expansion of home care and visiting nurses services as the most cost-efficient mode of health care delivery. We therefore want our government to adequately fund the Victorian Order of Nurses."

#### SCHOOL OPENING AND CLOSING EXERCISES

**Mr Reycraft:** The fourth petition is signed by 55 individuals from the riding of Quinte and addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:"

It is a lengthy petition and I will not read the entire text of it, but it calls for the school boards to be allowed their choice on the use of prayers in opening and closing exercises in schools.

#### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr Miller:** I too have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to 31 May 1982 have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years."

It is signed by T. J. Miranda, and there are eight other signatures plus my own.

1520

#### NATUROPATHY

**Mr Polsinelli:** I have a petition signed by 50 individuals and addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads:

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to—

"Introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

I have also subscribed my name to it.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"I/we, the undersigned, petition the government of Ontario to reform the workers' compen-

sation system in Ontario so that people injured at work get decent pensions, rehabilitation, and jobs when they are able."

I have signed the petition as well.

#### HOME CARE

**Mr Elliot:** I have six petitions here that all read the same way. They read:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas we support the expansion of home care and visiting nurses services as the most cost-efficient mode of health care delivery and whereas the Victorian Order of Nurses will incur a further deficit of \$3 million provincially in the 1989-90 fiscal year if the government of Ontario fails to fulfil its promise to adequately fund home care services and therefore the VON may be forced to alter their home care services—we petition the Minister of Health to revise the funding formula for 1989-90 so that a secure funding base be established to reflect the increasing complex care needs in the community case load and to provide adequate compensation for the service providers working in the community setting so that citizens of Ontario are not forced to seek more expensive health care in an institutional setting."

As I said at the opening, this is a six-part petition. It has about 187 signatures on it and I have affixed my own signature to it as well.

#### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr Kormos:** I have a petition signed by Linda Esposito of Welland, eight others and myself and addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to 31 May 1982 have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"This proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

#### HOME CARE

**Mrs Fawcett:** "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We support the expansion of home care and visiting nurses services as the most cost-efficient mode of health care delivery. We therefore want our government to adequately fund the Victorian Order of Nurses."

I have affixed my signature.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

**Mr Ballinger:** I have two motions.

**The Speaker:** You have two motions.

**Mr Ballinger:** Yes, I do. Two bills, I am sorry.

**The Speaker:** Therefore, you do have two motions. Now the member for Sarnia got in ahead of you there.

#### SARNIA GENERAL HOSPITAL ACT, 1989

Mr Brandt moved first reading of Bill Pr3, An Act respecting Sarnia General Hospital.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr Ballinger:** I would just like to say it all the fault of the member for Sudbury (Mr Campbell), because I was trying to speak and listen at the same time.

#### AVIAN EMBLEM ACT, 1989

Mr Ballinger moved first reading of Bill 27, An Act to designate an Avian Emblem for Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

#### ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTORS ACT, 1989

Mr Ballinger moved first reading of Bill Pr25, An Act respecting the Association of Municipal Tax Collectors of Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

#### ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS ACT, 1989

Ms Collins moved first reading of Bill Pr7, An Act respecting the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Motion agreed to.

#### USE OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' TIME

**Mr Harris:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Standing order 27(a) states: "A member, other than a leader of a recognized party in the House or a minister of the crown, may be recognized to make a statement for not more than one and one-half minutes." That is the quote from the standing orders.

Today, the member for Durham-York (Mr Ballinger) made a minute-and-a half-long member's statement, which I had thought was a ministry statement concerning the bill that he was

introducing today. This concerned the official designation of the loon as the bird of Ontario. He is the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr Kerrio). I understand the Ministry of Natural Resources spent some money having a contest to determine what ought to be the official bird of Ontario.

I was surprised that there was no explanation when the member introduced the bill. Clearly, one of two things has happened: It is government policy, that is, it is MNR money in the contest and the intent is to proceed with the naming of the loon as the official bird, in which case the member is acting in his capacity as parliamentary assistant and obviously ought not to have made a member's statement today. The only other explanation is that indeed the minister has said no and the parliamentary assistant as a private member is saying: "The heck with you guys. I am going ahead on my own."

I realize that puts you in a predicament, Mr Speaker, as it does all of us, to determine which it is, as far as this direction goes. I would indicate to you, though, that if in fact it is government policy and the parliamentary assistant is acting in that capacity, I think it is inappropriate that we take up private members' time doing that.

**Hon Mr Conway:** The member is bringing this matter forward in his capacity as a private member, though he is right to point out that it is also a matter of some interest to the government. Having checked this matter, because I anticipated the honourable member's likely intervention, it is my understanding that this is not an unacceptable practice. I feel very strongly that an honourable member should be allowed to participate in the private members' ballot process in any way, shape or form that he or she chooses, as long as it is within the framework of our rules and practices.

Certainly, I will be very interested in the involvement of my honourable friend the member for Nipissing (Mr Harris) in the discussions here whenever that ballot item is called, and certainly we will be interested to see how the matter proceeds.

1530

**The Speaker:** On the point of order raised by the member for Nipissing (Mr Harris), I have looked at the standing order very clearly, and it states, "A member, other than a leader of a recognized party...or a minister of the crown," may rise and make a statement. That is what took place. I guess we will have to see what happens in due course.

**Mr Harris:** I understand, but a parliamentary assistant, when he is speaking on a matter of that ministry, has been ruled by you and by others to be deemed to be a minister for the sake of the rules. That is the point I wanted to make and I hope that is clear.

**The Speaker:** I believe we have something in our standing orders that a parliamentary assistant cannot ask his or her minister a question during question period.

**Mr Harris:** I will bring all the documentation.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. I will be glad to look at it.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### BUDGET DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

**Mr Pope:** I intend to be rather restrained in my comments today, on pain of swift justice from the Sergeant at Arms, but I do want to start by saying that obviously the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon), by virtue of his years of service in the Legislature and his abilities, merits our respect. To the member for St Catharines-Brock (Mr Dietsch): I am told, in fact by the House leader, that he is a fairly friendly guy over a bottle of French red wine.

I also want to indicate to the Treasurer that I am aware, and so are members of this Legislature, that the staff in the Ministry of Treasury and Economics serving the minister are very competent and dedicated public servants who have worked hard and long on this budget and in the service of the people of Ontario.

But my role today is to comment upon the general direction of this government, the policies contained in the budget this particular Treasurer brought down last week and to make some comment on where I see the government heading and some of the problems and benefits of the direction the Treasurer, in his wisdom, has chosen to embark upon.

First, I think for all of us in this province the budget is a unique, once-a-year opportunity to make a comprehensive statement on the finances and administration of the government of Ontario. It is an opportunity that resides initially in the Treasurer and then reflects upon our opportunities in this Legislature to comment on what the Treasurer has said.

As well, it is an opportunity for the Treasurer to reflect upon the state of the Ontario economy.

In my submission, contained in that opportunity is an obligation on the Treasurer to produce the books, the financial records of the government, for public scrutiny and comment. I believe that in order to meet the obligation that resides in the Treasurer, the books of our government must be capable of interpretation by not only anyone in this Legislature but also the residents of this province generally.

They must embody consistent accounting principles. The Treasurer must use generally applied accounting principles and must be straightforward in his production of the numbers. In other words, he cannot cook the books. If the budget is to have any integrity and any usefulness whatsoever in this province with respect to interpreting where we are in government expenditures, government revenues and where the economy of this province stands, it has to be capable of ready understanding and interpretation by commentators.

I have to comment, in the context of those principles, on this particular budget. When we as a party asked, in the lockup that preceded the budget, what accounting principles were used in the preparation of this budget—and I took notes at the time—Treasury staff indicated that they were not a company, were not producing corporate financial statements and therefore had no obligation to use “generally accepted accounting principles.”

By the time the Treasurer appeared before the standing committee on finance and economic affairs the morning after the budget was presented, the answer was that they were using “a modified cash basis accounting.” During the course of the proceedings of the finance committee, the Treasurer intervened at that point to comment on what he termed a “policy” matter. I take this to mean that he was personally involved and that he considered it to be a matter of policy as opposed to routine accounting.

What I am referring to is the prepayment on account of 1989-90 financial obligations of this government, prepaying by automatic deposit on 31 March 1989, the very last day of the financial year. Not when the money was received from the federal government or any other source, not in response to an immediate demand by municipalities but as a conscious decision of the government on 31 March 1989, \$413 million was deposited by automatic deposit to the accounts of municipalities across this province with respect to unconditional transfer payments. In addition, \$410 million of capital requests were preflowed

for the 1989-90 financial year at the end of March 1989, during the 1988-89 financial year.

More important than the flowing of those funds was a "policy" decision to include these sums flowed on account of 1989-90 obligations in the 1988-89 expenditure statements released by this government. There is nothing per se wrong with that, if the Treasurer wishes to do it as a policy decision that he makes and wishes to explain it to the accountants and others who analyse provincial government statements, who are mystified by the extent and timing of these payments of \$823 million; but we have to analyse, then, the consequences of that policy decision by the Treasurer on the books of the province.

I think it is clear—and it was confirmed, I might say to the Treasurer, by Treasury staff in the lockup and afterwards—that the consequences of that preflow of \$413 million on the very last day of March and its inclusion in the previous year's expenditures were that the expenditure total was \$35.5 billion and that the budget plan 1989-90 expenditure was \$38.1 billion. The reality is, if you consider the \$413-million payment on the last day of the financial year, 31 March, on account of 1989-90 obligations to be part of the 1989-90 expenditure commitments of this government, it presents a totally different picture of operating expenditures and in fact a rather important variation from what was presented in the budget.

The expenditures for 1988-89 fiscal year are not \$35.5 billion but \$35.1 billion; the expenditures under the budget plan 1989-90 are not \$38.1 billion but \$38.5 billion. The effect, I say to the people of this province, is that this government will not have increased its expenditures by seven per cent this year over last, as was presented in the budget, but by almost 10 per cent. An expenditure increase of almost 10 per cent is the net effect.

**1540**

If we net through the capital advances which were offered with respect to the 1989-90 financial year, because the Treasurer has said that not only did he pay the \$410-million advance in respect of 1989-90 but also that he was going to preflow for next year \$400-some million, if he decides to do so—as the Treasurer said last Thursday in reply to questions from the member for Simcoe West (Mr McCague), if he decides to do so he will do it—if we net out that \$400 million in the capital investment figures of the budget, the deficit to finance capital changes dramatically, from \$1.5 billion in 1988-89 to \$700 million,

a difference of \$800 million; and the deficit to finance capital deteriorates in 1989-90 to just over \$1 billion. That is a pretty important difference, in terms of interpretation or perspective of the health of Ontario finances.

It makes a major difference, a double-digit increase in expenditures, a deteriorating deficit position in times of significant revenue increases in the hands of the government of Ontario. It makes a very big difference in the perspective that independent financial analysts and economists will have of this government's ability to keep the records straight and this government's ability to keep the books of the province in proper working order.

The Treasurer was asked in question period today—He had time to reflect upon my statement prior to question period. He had time to reflect upon the questions raised in the budget lockup and in the proceedings last week of the finance committee. Quite frankly, he has decided that this was a policy decision he was responsible for. I acknowledge that it is a policy decision not made by accountants but that he made and has to answer for.

I think it is important to reflect, as my leader did last Thursday, upon the finances of this province since this government came to office in 1985. The Treasurer, in his statement to the Legislature on 11 July 1985, in which, by the way, he indicated that the finances of the province had been relatively well maintained—I think his words were "relatively well managed"—prior to his arrival as Treasurer of this great province, in the summary of revenues attached to the Treasurer's statement of 11 July 1985, we see taxation revenue of \$15.092 billion. This coming financial year, this government will take, from the people of Ontario in tax revenues, over \$30 billion.

Since the government came to office in 1985, they have doubled the taxes received from the men and women of Ontario. At the same time, we have seen an increase in expenditures of some 56 per cent. It is very important that the people of this province, the working men and women who are paying their taxes, understand that they are paying 100 per cent more taxes now to the province than they were when the Liberals came to office.

When pressed last Thursday for an explanation for this phenomenal tax grab by a greedy Liberal government, the Treasurer indicated that he needed the additional revenue to resolve the problems that the previous administration had left for him. Yet this is the same Treasurer who in 1985, when he was analysing the books of the province, said they had been relatively well managed.

In this budget, we also have sort of hints that really the Treasurer's problem is federal transfer payments and the policies of the federal government, yet we see on page 58 that payments from the federal government are actually going to increase this year, to 40.713 from 37.222. That is not a decline in federal transfer payments; that is an increase. I put that in the context of the Treasurer's penchant for blaming his problems on the federal government.

The fact of the matter is that this government has made a policy decision that has doubled the tax burden for all Ontarians. This government has made a decision for the second consecutive year to increase taxes that Ontarians must pay by \$1.3 billion. In the 1988 budget presented by the Treasurer, he increased the rate of tax on gasoline by one cent per litre effective on the budget night, and indicated it would generate \$100 million in that fiscal year. The Treasurer then indicated a one percentage point adjustment in the rate of personal income tax for 1988 and another one percentage point of personal income tax increase for the year 1989, generating an estimated \$265 million in the current fiscal year; and increased the Ontario surtax rate for 1988 to 10 per cent, raising an additional \$52 million this fiscal year.

He further indicates in his 1988 budget an increase in the retail sales tax rate by one percentage point to eight per cent effective 2 May 1988, yielding an estimated \$750 million in that year; a one cent per cigarette and a 0.6 cents per gram of cut tobacco increase in the tobacco tax effective midnight the night of the budget to raise an additional \$158 million; and an increase in the tax on spirits, wine and beer effective 24 May 1988 to generate an additional \$62 million this fiscal year.

Not to be outdone by that monstrous tax grab last year, our friend the Treasurer decided to duplicate the effort this year and go for another \$1.3 billion. Having a tremendous appetite and being responsible for those in his cabinet who have these tremendous appetites, we see an additional \$1.3 billion. How do we see it? Another increase in personal income tax rates, the third time since the Liberals took office, to 53 per cent of the base federal rate. We see the gasoline tax hike for the second year in a row, one cent a litre effective midnight the night of the budget, and another cent a litre, in case you still want to drive in this province, on 1 January 1990. On unleaded gasoline the tax went up to 13.3 cents the day after the budget and another cent a litre on 1 January 1990. If you still want to drive in Ontario, you are going to pay \$5 a tire

additional tax for every tire you purchase effective 1 June 1989.

As well, if you still want to drive after that, vehicle registration fees and driver's licence fees will be increased, with a special new punitive rate for the greater Toronto area. Registration fees will go up 22 per cent in southern and northern Ontario and will be increased by an additional \$24 on top of that in the greater Toronto area, going from \$54 to a total of \$90 to renew your vehicle registration.

Not to be outdone, if you want to buy what the Treasurer terms to be a gas guzzler, you will pay a new gas guzzler tax on fuel-inefficient cars. The tax will range from \$600 to \$3,500, depending on the vehicle's fuel consumption rating. So if you operate or want to buy a gas guzzler, you are going to pay more money to the revenue-guzzling Treasurer and his Liberal government in the province of Ontario.

#### 1550

Then we have a 1.95 per cent payroll tax, which I also call a tax on employment. We now have a tax on employment in this province, a positive disincentive to employ people and maintain them on a payroll.

As Treasury officials indicated last Thursday morning in the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, those who are not on a payroll, of course, will pay no payroll tax. So lawyers, accountants, the self-employed and the professionals will not contribute to replace the Ontario health insurance plan premiums they were paying. But a small businessman who did not have an automatic payment system for OHIP premiums will be penalized and will pay an additional 1.96 per cent as a payroll tax to this provincial government. No wonder it has been called by small business representatives a tax on employment, a disincentive to do business in Ontario, another gouging of the small businessman.

Not to be outdone by the stomping to its knees of Toronto by virtue of the tax and fiscal policies of this Treasurer, we then have something called a commercial concentration levy, where for the first time in organized territories, this provincial government will send out tax bills. It is going to get into the land or municipal tax bill business.

Now land owners in Metropolitan Toronto or the greater Toronto area will be sent a tax bill not only from their municipal government, but also from their friendly Minister of Revenue (Mr Grandmâitre), who will levy an additional property tax of \$1 per square foot on all com-

mercial property and associated parking with gross areas exceeding 200,000 square feet.

If the Treasurer and his cabinet ministers think that that increase is not going to be passed on to small businessmen, who are the tenants of these major facilities, directly through the provisions of their leases, as they know it will be, and if they do not think it is then going to be passed on to the consumer by way of price increases to cover their fixed costs, they are living in a dream world.

In housing, in taxation of direct and indirect land and income, in sales tax policies and in driving a vehicle, this Treasurer and this government have selected the greater Toronto area for special cruel and unusual treatment on which they intend to follow through, and while they are at it, they are going to stomp the rest of the province for good measure.

For the second straight year, \$1.3 billion in additional tax revenues have been generated from this Treasurer and from this government, which is a doubling of tax revenues since they came to office. That is not the kind of performance we can support or the kind of budget the people of this province need. It has caused other jurisdictions to openly and publicly brag to other capital investors, potential investors, businessmen and residents that their provinces are better places to live than Ontario because of the tax regime that the Liberal government has put into place.

All one has to do is look at the Saskatchewan budget that was just presented, with its tables of comparative loading of tax on the people of Ontario, compared to Saskatchewan and other jurisdictions. All one has to do is look at the boasts of the Quebec government in its last budget, where it indicates that Quebec is now competitive with Ontario in terms of tax policy, tax load, business regime policies, encouragement to growth and impact on individual small businessmen, working men and women.

These other provincial governments are now saying: "Come and do business with us. Come and reside within our boundaries. We are competitive with, if not better than, the attitude and atmosphere generated by the tax policies of the Treasurer of Ontario." They are boasting about it, and this Treasurer and this government are the architects of this kind of pressure on Ontario development for the future.

Not only is the impact of this budget and this Treasurer's policy decisions reflected in tax increases that working men and women will have to pay, not only is it reflected in the general economic climate that is beginning to pervade

Ontario vis-à-vis its provincial government and the propensity of its Treasurer and its Premier (Mr Peterson) to tax and increase the tax load, but also we see a reflection of additional financial burdens on the people of this province emanating from decisions that this Treasurer and this government made before the budget was introduced.

I am referring to the flat-lining of transfer payments and unconditional grants to municipalities. I am talking about the freezing of transportation subsidies for municipal roads. I am talking about a decline in transfers to boards of education across this province that has reflected itself in massive, double-digit property tax increases across this province, for which this Treasurer and this government have to bear some responsibility.

I heard someone from Sudbury saying that there were no decreases in transfer payments to boards of education. I have to say that there is a \$10-million shortfall to the Carleton Board of Education this year over last year; there is a \$57.6-million difference in the transfer payments to the Metropolitan Toronto School Board this year over last year; there is a \$17.9-million shortfall to the Ottawa Board of Education this year over last year, and there is a \$10-million shortfall in the Peel Board of Education this year over last year. Every single school board and municipal administration in this province has publicly stated that the reduction of transfer payments from the Treasurer and this Liberal government has forced it to increase taxes.

Many of the news stories over the past month and a half have talked about a 23 per cent increase in education taxes in Muskoka, 12 per cent and 15 per cent increases in the municipal property taxes attributable to the boards of education in Timmins, and the list goes on and on. There are double-digit tax increases for property taxpayers in this province because of the decisions that have been made by this government on transfer payments.

These decisions have led directly to tax increases for men and women who are already having more difficulty meeting the financial imperatives of buying and maintaining a home in this province under the Liberal regime than they have ever had before, and those municipal tax increases are going to continue because of the policies of this Treasurer.

I remind the Treasurer that it was in February 1987 that our then leader, the former member for St Andrew-St Patrick, voiced his concern in the budget debate about the treatment of transfer

payments during that 1987 budget with respect to municipalities and boards of education. It was true in 1987, it was true in 1988 and it is true again in 1989. It is this government that is responsible for those tax increases and the squeeze that is being placed on municipalities.

If anyone feels that there is not a problem in the hands of the municipalities, perhaps he can explain why the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, in its presentation to the cabinet, talked about salvaging the partnership. It has put out *The Hidden Agenda: Provincial Priorities at Local Costs*. AMO has gone on record with this cabinet and this Treasurer as voicing its concerns about the offloading of responsibilities on to municipalities and municipal councils, responsibilities that should be the province's and always have been the province's, with no revenue base from which to operate these programs mandated by the provincial government except for property tax increases.

#### 1600

We talk about the whole range from policing and security in the courtrooms to the requirement of maintaining our road system; to the requirement of installing water and sewage facilities for our citizens, our residents of these municipalities; to Sunday shopping and the imperatives that provides.

We can go through a whole list: housing now, where the Minister of Housing (Ms Hošek) is saying: "I give up. I've got money but I don't know how to spend it and I don't know how to tell people to access it, so I am going to force the municipalities to take over housing in this province. I'll give them a provincial housing policy statement that they have to adhere to. They can cover the costs and small private developers can cover the costs."

We go from there to the boards of education, which are being told now that in spite of the lack of funding for special education, they are going to have to take even more money out of their expenditure base and fund some part of the kindergarten or early school provisions that this government has mandated. All this additional offloading of responsibilities has to reflect itself in tax increases, in payments that property owners, men and women in their own homes, have to meet every year. These kinds of tax increases are the responsibility of this government, and no one should underestimate the effects of these additional taxes on the daily lives of Ontarians.

There are some initiatives that we have applauded this government for, but we have also

indicated there are some ways that it could be saving money. We have yet to hear a response from the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr Elston) or the Treasurer. We have yet to hear their response to our ongoing concern about a 47 per cent increase in administrative costs in the three years after this government came to power. We have yet to see them note any progress in cutting down a 47 per cent increase in costs of administering the programs of the province.

We have yet to see any indication that the Premier himself, reflecting on the 60 per cent increase in the costs of administering the Office of the Premier and the Cabinet Office, stand up and say: "I agree that the 60 per cent increase we put in in three years was too much. We are going to cut it down. We are going to reduce costs"; not "We are going to slow the rate of growth," but "We are going to reduce these costs."

We have yet to hear the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr Riddell), with his 40 per cent increase in administrative costs in three years after the government came to office, say, "We are going to cut down some of that growth in administrative costs and flow the money to the farmers."

We have yet to hear from the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs McLeod), whose administrative budget went up 90 per cent in three years, that she is going to cut down on the staff and the costs of administration, not slow the rate of growth but cut down on the costs of administration and flow that money through the Ontario student assistance program or flow that money to increase the number of positions available to young men and women who want to get an education, who are now, for the first time in our history, being turned away from post-graduate studies because there are no spaces or courses are being cancelled.

We have yet to hear from the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr Wrye) an explanation of a 70 per cent increase in administrative costs in the three years since the Liberals came to office.

We have yet to hear from the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr Mancini) an explanation of the 90 per cent increase in administrative costs and how he is going to reduce the costs of that administration so that the money can flow to the disabled people of this province who need it.

We have yet to hear from the Minister of Financial Institutions about a 100 per cent increase.

We have yet to hear from the Minister of Government Services (Mr Patten) when we are facing a deficit in capital structure in this province and a need for additional government offices, which the government itself has announced, in northern and eastern Ontario, when that money could be going to those needy projects, why the main office of Government Services increased by 200 per cent in three years. We have yet to get that explanation.

We have yet to get an explanation from the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr Kwinter), in his fight for free trade, of how he could let the administrative costs of his ministry rise by 60 per cent in three years while that government came to office.

We have yet to hear from the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr Peterson) some explanation of a 74 per cent increase in the costs of administration of that particular ministry since the Liberals came to office.

We have yet to hear, in the face of statements by the opposition party, the New Democrats, about the accelerating rate of deaths in the workplace and accidents in the workplace and, last year, about the lowest number of workplace inspectors than in 10 previous years, or an explanation of the 110 per cent increase in the administrative expenses of the Ministry of Labour while this carnage was going on in the workplace. We have yet to understand why that money was not flowed out of administration to hire more inspectors for the workplace to maintain the laws and the regulations that protect working men and women in this province.

At the same time as the Ministry of Municipal Affairs was flat-lining municipalities this year and giving the city of Timmins a 1.2 per cent increase in transfer payments only last year and was reducing the transfer payments in-year, in the face of that constraint loaded off by that minister on to the municipalities of this province, which reflected itself in less services and less ability to provide for the residents in the municipalities, we have yet to hear from that selfsame minister an explanation of why his administrative expenses increased by 100 per cent while he was cutting down the municipal transfers.

We have yet to hear from the Minister of Northern Development (Mr Fontaine)—who has spent virtually nothing out of the northern heritage fund and who has dismantled the BILD programs, any incentive for the private sector to continue to operate and expand in northern Ontario—why he allowed his administrative

expenses in the three years that he held that position to increase by 300 per cent. We have yet to hear that explanation.

We have yet to hear from the Minister of Revenue, who socks it every chance he gets to the people of Ontario, the working men and women, why his main office expenses have increased by 86 per cent in three years since the Liberals came to office. He will sock it to the taxpayers but he sure has got a lot of increase in his own main office expenses.

**An hon member:** The Treasurer even did that.

**Mr Pope:** I know the Treasurer is happy that I am dealing with these subjects, because he no doubt says the same thing in the confines of the cabinet room.

We have yet to hear from the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs Wilson) as to why her main office expenses increased by 150 per cent since the Liberals came to office.

We have yet to hear from the Minister of Skills Development (Mr Curling), at a time when skills development programs are in a shambles, improperly administered, improperly conveyed to people who need them, why at the same time that minister increased administrative expenses by 220 per cent.

We have yet to hear an explanation from the Solicitor General (Mrs Smith) at the same time that OPP detachments are being reduced across this province, particularly in rural areas; at the same time that the OPP services are not being provided on weekends any more to help the people of northern Ontario and eastern Ontario. The Solicitor General herself, in administration expenses, increased her budget by 90 per cent over three years while she was cutting back basic services to the people of Ontario, and no explanation whatsoever is forthcoming. Her main office expenses increased by 64 per cent.

We have yet to hear from the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr O'Neil) in the face of concerns voiced by the tourist industry over Ontario's role and northern Ontario's role in getting the tourist dollar here in this province, an explanation for his increase of 50 per cent in three years of his administrative budget.

The Treasurer, in his wisdom, limited his administrative expense increases to 20 per cent over three years, but where is the restraint? Where is the utilization of administrative personnel in the other ministries at the same time that these basic services are being cut back?

I say that the attitude necessary in their constraint is not there. I say there is no sense of

proper management and financial responsibility in some of the line ministers and it is up to the Treasurer and the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet to crack the whip over there, get us some explanation for these increases and start cutting back to the same degree that they have cut back on basic services to the people of Ontario.

1610

A 47 per cent increase in administrative expenses of this government in three years is a shameful waste of public money. The money should have been put into programs if that is where the need existed; and if the need did not exist, it should have been used to pay down the deficit even further.

I heard the Treasurer say, "But, yes, we met our target of \$500 million in in-year constraints." He produced a table in the budget—I forget what page it is on, but it is there—and said, "These savings are permanent and we will add to them next year."

I say to the Treasurer's officials that the canvassing of that list contained in the budget will reveal that not all of those constraints are ongoing, permanent constraints, but rather some of them were a withholding of capital funds, others were a withholding or delay of projects. Just an analysis of the numbers themselves and the grouping of those numbers indicates that to be the case.

In any event, how can we claim that there is a successful \$500-million in-year constraint program when the Treasurer's expenditures have risen by 10 per cent? How can he claim constraint on one hand and a 10 per cent increase in expenditures on the other? Only the Treasurer could do that, and he hoped to get away with it.

In fact, there is no constraint program in place. Even the guise or the publicity of this program is starting to fade. Now the in-year constraint target is \$200 million. With all of this additional revenue, \$1.3 billion, coming in, with all of this pride over the \$540 million being met, with all of this pride over the moderate growth of expenditures, which we think is a major growth of expenditures, there is a \$200-million constraint program.

It is not good enough. We have a right to expect more from our Treasurer. We have a right to expect more from the Chairman of Management Board. We have a right to expect sound, prudent and careful administration of our tax dollars, not only on new programs which may be needed but also on day-to-day operations of the government.

It is not good enough to be a parsimonious farmer. It is not good enough to sock it to the taxpayers. We have to look at the consequences of the budgetary policies on the people of Ontario, not only for this year but also for previous years. We have seen these increases in expenditures, particularly administrative expenditures, but we have also seen increases in program expenditures.

But for many people in Ontario, what is the legacy of those increased tax dollars they have paid out of their pockets to our friend the Treasurer and his administration? What are the consequences they see in their day-to-day lives?

As I said earlier, if you live in rural Ontario, northern Ontario or eastern Ontario, the Ontario Provincial Police detachments are closed on the weekends. You have to call long-distance if you have an emergency requiring the presence of the OPP and just pray they get there within two hours—or if you want instant action, call the Solicitor General at her home in London. But otherwise, if you call the OPP detachments you are going to wait for some period of time for the message to get through the circuitous system we now have in place; and if you really have a situation requiring additional OPP personnel, you had better wait for reinforcements, because detachments across northern and eastern Ontario have been reduced.

That is part of the legacy of the Liberal government to the people of this province. For the second straight year, \$1.3 billion more in taxes is coming out of the pockets of working men and women in Ontario, but they have less police protection now than ever before; they have more reason for concern than ever before.

When it comes to the Metropolitan Toronto police, they feel they do not have a spokesman in government; they feel they do not have a friend who is speaking for them. They see themselves under siege from the Attorney General (Mr Scott) and the Solicitor General, with no one who will talk to them or will speak for them in the confines of cabinet. That is the reality of the morale right now in the Metropolitan Toronto Police department. It affects the ability of these dedicated men and women to serve and protect the residents of this great city, and it reflects itself in the attitudes of other municipal police departments across this province towards this government.

What do we see with our \$1.3 billion in additional taxes out of the pockets of the working men and women of this province for the second year running? We see waiting lists for heart surgery now stretching into years. We see the

number of procedures of heart surgery performed in our hospitals flat-lined or reduced since the Liberals came to power.

As the member for Wellington (Mr J. M. Johnson) pointed out in this Legislature some two years ago, we see someone in need of a hip replacement having to wait for more than a year to two years to get into the Orthopaedic and Arthritic Hospital in Toronto. I believe the man's name was Mr Elgie, and the reply of the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan) was, "Well, maybe you'd better shop around." There were other examples of exactly the same problem with respect to hip replacement raised by the New Democrats, and the same answer. The waiting lists have never been longer. They are now three years long. There never have been more people concerned with the state of the health care system and the hospital system in the history of this province, and yet the Liberals are grabbing more tax dollars.

Our health care system was a source of pride. It was built on co-operation and on the commitment of dedicated professionals: men, women and staff. It was a source of pride for everyone in Ontario. Senator Ted Kennedy came here to examine our health care system. Others from across the world came to examine the benefits of this system, how it was administered and how it was a co-operative system serving the needs of the people of this province. People were coming from other nations around the world to the Hospital for Sick Children and to the Toronto General Hospital to have state-of-the-art surgery and life-saving surgery performed here.

Now the legacy of this Liberal administration is that Ontario residents have to go elsewhere to get needed heart surgery or hip replacements. Cleveland, Ohio, is now the place to look to, as are Alabama, Buffalo and Rochester. People are searching out other sources and other jurisdictions, because this health care system has failed them.

That is the reality for men and women across this province who are concerned about the health of their spouse, parents or grandparents. The reality is that the Liberals have presided over declining public confidence at best, and declining administrative capacities at worst, of the health care system for the people of Ontario.

Sure, the government grabs more of our tax dollars and sure, it has spent them on itself. But even more tragic still are the consequences for the men, women, families and communities of this province.

We now have the spectacle of a newspaper advertisement, a paid ad, in the Timmins Daily Press on Saturday saying to the people of South Porcupine and Porcupine for the first time in history: "We don't have doctors to serve you in South Porcupine. The hospital, on an emergency standby basis, is going to try to serve your health care needs." What a stinging indictment, in one ad, of the commitment of this province to maintaining high-quality health care throughout Ontario, from one end to the other.

We have had stories over the past two years of people from Atikokan having to travel to Thunder Bay to have an appendix removed. We have had the example of our air ambulance system being overworked and failing its residents in northern Ontario, because the basics of hospital care are no longer available in our home communities.

#### 1620

The response of this government has not been acceptable. A few more pilot projects in the teaching hospitals of southern Ontario, the university hospitals, is not good enough. More specialty research for the university hospitals is not the only answer. There has to be a commitment to our community hospitals. There has to be a commitment to equality of access across this province. In fact, any objective review, as the New Democrats have done and we have done, of the quality of hospital and health care in this province shows a deterioration in rural Ontario, northern Ontario and eastern Ontario since the Liberal government came to power in 1985, a clear deterioration.

We now see today the Minister of Health, in her wisdom, starting the slow but inevitable process of reneging on the commitments for hospital capital improvements that the Liberals made in 1986; 4,000 beds are affected. They are starting the slow but inevitable process of reneging, not on their commitment to the university hospitals in Toronto, London, Hamilton, Kingston and Ottawa, but on their commitment to the community hospitals, the community hospitals up the coast at Attawapiskat, the community hospital perhaps in Manitouwadge, the community hospital in Timmins, the community hospital in Atikokan.

We have a shortage of manpower in nursing as we have never had before. We have specialty doctors leaving this jurisdiction because of the attitude of this government of confrontation, of socking it to them, and now even a discussion of capping of incomes. More doctors are going to leave. We have an outflow of these world-

renowned surgeons, these world-class specialists, these badly needed nurses, an outflow from this jurisdiction. Slowly but surely, the Liberals have presided over the decline of our health care system and we are all going to pay the price.

While working men and women are paying another \$1.3 billion this year to the Treasurer and his Liberal administration on top of the \$1.3 billion in additional revenues they paid last year, what do we see with respect to our education system? Again, we see an attitude of confrontation, of this cabinet knowing best and no one else knowing what they are talking about. The same attitude of confrontation with respect to the doctors, hospital administrators, hospital boards, nurses, chiropractors and optometrists that we saw in the health care field is starting to pervade the education field.

Mandated programs of the Minister of Education (Mr Ward): There is very little consultation with the professional groups that have to implement this mandated program in the classroom. There is a lack of commitment to special education, particularly in northern Ontario. There are 200,000 pupils in portables, as my leader said eight days ago, more than twice what there was when the Liberals came to power. What a stinging indictment of the failure of this government to meet the needs of our children in the education system.

In the face of those kinds of problems in the education system, we have unilateral decision-making with respect to teachers' pensions, where the Treasurer said, "Like it or lump it," and the Premier in Peterborough said, "You're being silly in your comments." That is exactly what he said. We see unilateral decisions affecting the quality of education in the class that teachers have to live with, with no consultation.

When we pay our \$1.3 billion in additional taxes this year on top of the \$1.3 billion last year; when we view the prospect of this Treasurer and this government receiving twice as much tax revenue now as they did when they came to office; when we see deterioration in the basic water and sewage facilities in our municipalities because of a lack of upgrading grants, lack of transfer payments, lack of priority attached to that need by the province; when we see deteriorating municipal roads because of flat-lining and in fact a reduction this coming year over last year in the transfer payments with respect to municipal roads—the numbers in the Treasurer's own budget document show that—we see, in terms of needed upgrading of roads in northern Ontario—

**Mr Wiseman:** And eastern Ontario.

**Mr Pope:** —and eastern Ontario, my friend the member for Lanark-Renfrew reminds me—a lack of commitment of this government to meet those needs.

When the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology was in Timmins addressing the chamber of commerce at a breakfast meeting, the very first question he was asked by someone in the audience was if he is going to four-lane Highway 11. Is he going to make it a true Trans-Canada Highway? Is he going to resolve safety concerns on these isolated stretches of road? The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, to give him credit, had to admit that, no, there were no plans to do that; that he hoped that there would be some priority attached to it, but he was not in a position, certainly, to announce it.

I think that is a fair reflection of what he said. And we do not see any improvement in that situation emanating from this government, this Treasurer or from the Minister of Northern Development, certainly not from him.

When we are paying our \$1.3 billion out of our pockets in additional taxes this year, and working men and women are meeting that obligation on top of the additional \$1.3 billion they paid last year, noting that the tax revenues of this government have doubled out of our pockets since the Liberals came to office, we have to ask ourselves: Are our children any better able today to get into colleges and universities than they were when the Liberals came to office?

The answer clearly is no. There is less opportunity now for our young people to get into post-secondary education courses of their choice now than at any time I can recall. I have more complaints in my constituency office about total frustration of scholars with 85, 90 or 93 per cent averages being turned down for post-graduate courses or for particular training courses in our college and university system. I have never seen that kind of frustration from brilliant young minds and on the faces of parents who come in to deal with these problems.

It is well known, as we said last fall, that the Treasurer's announcement of transfer payments to universities and colleges would result in a reduction of numbers of courses and result in a reduction in the number of positions in some courses in community colleges across this province. As a result of this decision of this government and its attitude towards the administration of our colleges and universities, we now

have lost opportunities for young people to make their place in Ontario's society.

We have kids from Timmins, whom we desperately need to be our doctors and dentists, our professionals up north, who are going out of this province, because they cannot get into university and college in this province. Again it is a stinging indictment of the priorities of this government.

What about the natural resource sector? The natural resource sector was the subject of the BILD program which the Treasurer in July 1985 was so proud to wind up in his very first statement. We had BILD programs which provided some incentive for the expenditure of private funds in forest management, mill modernization, mineral exploration, mine development and tourism development. It was wound up and replaced with what?

We now see the Ministry of Natural Resources with a reduction in its budget this year over last year. We see \$5 million in a special allocation to the mining sector of this province, seven times less than the film industry of this city received—\$34 million to the film industry, \$5 million to the mining industry—at a time when this province uniquely has failed to move in to take up some of the slack left by the collapse, the cancellation, of the flow-through share funding for mineral exploration and development.

This is one of the last jurisdictions to move into that field, to try to provide some positive incentive for new mine development and exploration. They still have not done it in this budget.

This is one of the last jurisdictions with a major mining industry to refuse to react, and the consequences are there. We are starting to see a slowdown in mine development. New mines are not coming on stream. Projects are being mothballed. Workers are being laid off. It is not just the iron ore mines at Temagami or Wawa; it is the precious metals sector in around Matheson and east of Timmins where projects are being mothballed.

We see layoffs now at Pamour Porcupine Mines Ltd in Timmins. We see concern spreading in mining communities from one end of the province to the other. We see pessimism where there should be optimism. We see Canada declining in its comparative place for precious metal production in the world. In gold production we are now fifth; we used to be second. This decline has happened in the last four years and I hasten to add that the Liberals have been in power in Ontario for four years, although it does not necessarily correspond.

## 1630

What do we see with respect to the softwood lumber industry and the forest products industry? We see that 1,700 people have lost their jobs. In the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, the Treasurer was wont to say that, of course, it was a federal decision to implement the 15 per cent surtax. The Treasurer knows, because the Treasurer's deputy minister signed the letter, that in 1986 this government agreed to financially contribute to a settlement with the Americans with respect to the countervail application on softwood lumber. The Treasurer knows that the letter was signed by his deputy minister and was delivered to the federal government at least 10 days before the federal announcement was made in Washington, DC.

Let's not skirt around the issue. The Minister of Northern Development has spent three years trying to deny the truth. That is exactly what happened. At a federal-provincial meeting, the Treasurer decided to participate in this system. Not only that, he fixed his contribution, on a national basis, to the consequences of this surtax. What has the response of this government been to the plight of the softwood lumber industry and the forest products industry? Benign neglect.

In Cochrane North we have a net outflow of population in the last three years of over 2,500 people. That is not my riding, that is the riding of the Minister of Northern Development. We have seen these layoffs, at least 1,700 in total, in the softwood lumber sector since the surtax came into place. Has this government moved, as we wanted it to in the 1985 speech from the throne, towards a mill modernization program which would allow potential customers to place orders for unique dimensions and have them sawn by more up-to-date, modern, computer-oriented sawmill equipment, automatically packaged and delivered to customers? We have seen no such project, no such program in place.

Have we seen an expansion of the forest management program? No, we have not. In fact, the orders placed by this government with the private tree nursery operators have declined for the last two consecutive years. Fewer trees and fewer seedlings are being purchased for reforestation than were last year or the year before. We see less money being spent than we have ever seen before on access roads for forest management agreements so people can get in to plant the trees. In fact, some forest management agreement holders, some of these companies this year, will do no work on reforestation programs. And

the Ministry of Natural Resources is having its budget reduced.

It is important to understand that not only do we have no new programs, but no ongoing commitments to the forest products industry, no aeromagnetic survey programs to develop new ore deposits, no ongoing incentives for core storage, no ongoing incentives for custom mills across this province for base metals and precious metals. Not only do we see none of this, but we see the Ministry of Natural Resources actually having a cut in its budget and we see a concern reflected in northern Ontario communities over the future prospects for these communities themselves, over a lack of opportunity to diversify economically. All we get is conferences, glossy brochures, meetings of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Cap Board and nothing else.

As the Treasurer noted in his budgets of 1986, 1987 and 1988, but did not note in his budget this year, the economic problems of northern Ontario and eastern Ontario merit special attention.

This year, the Treasurer even took the casual reference out of his budget statement. In fact, there is no indication of a priority for eastern Ontario, either in the budget or in the speech from the throne. The words "eastern Ontario" were not even in the speech from the throne. We see no indication of a priority for northern Ontario at all. In fact, faced with these daunting economic prospects of reduction of economic activity in northern Ontario and massive layoffs, the Treasurer has dropped all pretext and dropped all reference to northern Ontario in his budget statement.

The only excuse I have heard—and people should reflect upon this when they are paying their \$1.3 billion in additional taxes this year on top of the \$1.3 billion in additional taxes out of their pockets last year, realizing that this government has doubled its tax revenue since it came to power, from \$15 billion to \$30 billion—the only explanation I have been given for the massive increase in the Ministry of Labour administrative expenses, of 110 per cent over three years, is that a former Minister of Labour said, "But we have established a policy department."

Why the minister cannot make policy decisions is something I do not understand, but he obviously did not want to, so he set up a policy department. With respect to Bill 208 and Bill 162, never have we seen clearer examples of failure to communicate policy ideas to client groups and to the people of Ontario than we have

seen with this current Minister of Labour (Mr Sorbara). Never have we seen such a policy failure, if this represents the results of this so-called policy group, as we see with this Minister of Labour.

With respect, the people of this great municipality and all municipalities across Ontario, when they are paying their additional \$1.3 billion in taxes this year over the like amount last year and reflecting upon the greed of this Liberal administration, should reflect upon the abject failure of this Liberal administration to deliver affordable housing to the people of Ontario.

They have turned off the private sector. They have not got proper programs in place to encourage home ownership. In fact, they discourage it by their tax revenues and policy measures, they discourage private ownership of homes like never before and their answer is public housing programs which they cannot explain and people cannot access. You now need to pay a consultant to tell you what programs exist in the Ministry of Housing and to get you the application forms. You now need a consultant—and preferably a Liberal consultant—in order to get money for a public housing program. The reaction to this failure by the Minister of Housing has been:

"I guess I will lay it all in the hands of the municipalities. You're now going to have to preservice land, you're now going to have to adhere to a provincial policy statement on housing, you're now going to have to do mandatory things under your jurisdiction. You're going to take the flak for it. Because I can't do it, I don't want to do it any more, municipalities are going to do it."

Those are the consequences of the housing policies entered into by this administration. Not only have the moneys that have been allocated not gone to providing affordable housing, not only have they gone to suspect projects at best—and we have had some investigations in the standing committee on public accounts over the years on that nonsense—but the government has not solved the housing crisis in Metropolitan Toronto, nor in virtually every other major centre in Ontario. The policies have been a failure. By every single commentary, every single client group, every single interest group, they have been a failure.

I think it was the member for Sudbury (Mr Campbell) or one of the members—if it was not the member for Sudbury, I apologize—who indicated that the north had been well treated by this government. If that is the case, why did the

Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities meet in Blind River 10 days ago and talk, for the second straight meeting, about setting up an embassy in southern Ontario, in Toronto, so that they could have their say in Queen's Park? Why did they feel that they are so alienated and isolated from this Liberal administration that they have to set up an embassy?

1640

Do members want to know what the answer of the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr Eakins) on television was? "We have other priorities. You're not our only priority, and that's the way it is."

In my 20 years of involvement in politics in northern Ontario, I have never heard the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities talk about setting up an embassy in southern Ontario. I have never heard them say that, and that the Treasurer and the Premier and the cabinet have failed northern Ontario and northern Ontario municipalities. They know it, we know it, and all of the province knows it—and the Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley)—

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Hear, hear.

**Mr Pope:** Only the Treasurer applauded.

The Minister of the Environment—I say to the men and women of Ontario, they probably do not know him. He is generally in Detroit, taking on the city council. He is generally in Buffalo, New York, filing a writ with the federal Superior Court. He is generally in Washington, trying to find someone to talk to with a camera crew. He is generally in Ottawa posing for the cameras and attacking the federal government.

But when it comes to importing tainted fuel, fuel tainted with polychlorinated biphenyls, he is nowhere to be seen, hiding the reports for four months and not telling the people of Ontario what is going on. That is the priority of this Minister of the Environment. It is a disgrace that is his priority. He should stick to protecting the health and safety of the people of this province.

We have enunciated, I think, the problems that we see, that are endemic in the financial policies of this government, revealed by the budgetary policies of this Treasurer and this Premier. We have tried to indicate the consequences of these decisions on the people of Ontario, both in terms of paying more money out of their pockets to the provincial government and also in terms of the payments that they have to make by way of property taxes.

I think it is important to indicate that the personal income tax rates have gone up, in the last five years, from 48 per cent, I believe, to 53

per cent. This Treasurer, in the past 14 months, has himself announced three percentage increases, from 50 per cent to 53 per cent, in personal income tax rates. That is in the past 14 months.

He has announced the surtax. He has announced three separate increases in gasoline taxes. He has announced a new five-dollar-a-tire tax. He has announced a one per cent increase in the sales tax. He has announced a five-cent-a-bottle tax on disposable bottles. He has announced significant increases in the vehicle permit registration fees. He has announced increases in the price of beer, wine and spirits in the 1988 budget. There is no tax that this Treasurer has not taken a run at, not to reduce—he has never reduced a tax—but to increase, to increase the taxes, increase the tax rates, increase the tax burden.

The tax burden has been increased, any way we cut it. The Treasurer can say it is a result of remarkable economic revival or strength in Ontario. Some of that is true, but that did not lead this Treasurer to reduce the tax rates that the working men and women of this province pay to him, to his government. That did not lead him to consider reduction in taxes to stimulate further economic growth, particularly in other regions of the province that have not benefited from this economic growth in the Golden Horseshoe over the past five years. That did not lead him to pay down the deficit any more than he has. In fact, I maintain the deficit position is worsening this year over last.

No, he was not stirred by this economic strength in Ontario; he was not moved by economic growth to ease that burden. In spite of these significant economic factors he has increased the tax burden. There is no other way to state it. We have not seen the recognition in this government and this Treasurer of the fact that it is working men and women who are paying.

We have the startling revelation on the payroll tax, according to the Treasurer's own officials last Thursday, that the self-employed will not contribute to replace Ontario health insurance plan premiums. They are not on a payroll; therefore, no payroll tax; therefore, no payment. Today we have the remarkable situation indicated by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr B. Rae) that the burden will fall most squarely on public institutions already financed by the province, so that what is taken in with in one hand is given out with the other and there is no net difference to the people of Ontario or to the Treasury.

**Mr Fleet:** What about the federal government?

**Mr Pope:** What about the federal government? As I indicated earlier, on page 58, the Treasurer's own tables show that the transfer payments have increased this year over last year. So we have had an increase in transfer payments, not a reduction, and in 1988 we had a further increase in transfer payments over the previous year. I say to the member for Kitchener (Mr D. R. Cooke)—it is the bottom table on page 58—that it shows an increase two years running in federal transfer payments.

The fact of the matter is that this Treasurer has no excuse for these tax increases. There is no rationale this year and there was none last year. It is hurting the people of Ontario; it is going to impact on northern Ontario and eastern Ontario more than other regions of the province; it is going to hurt the resource sector more than ever before and there is no help in sight for those poor people; it is going to lead to Ontario's not being as attractive an investment jurisdiction or a jurisdiction for economic activity, if we can believe what the Saskatchewan and Quebec budgets trumpeted for all who wanted to listen.

I do not believe it is going to enhance the competitive position of our small businesses that are going to have to look at international competition and additional imports. I think it is going to create problems that are unnecessary, for those people, given the economic strength of this province.

There should not only be social justice through administration of government programs; there should be economic justice for peoples' keeping more in their own pockets. We think that should be a priority of the Treasurer, allowing the taxpayers and small business people to keep more in their own pockets so that they can decide how it is going to be used, not an all-knowing Liberal administration. We have seen enough of this dramatic increase in government expenditures—10 per cent this year over last year. It was endemic in the Trudeau years in Ottawa.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** It is 6.7 per cent.

**Mr Pope:** No, it is 10 per cent; I am sorry, it is a 9.98 per cent increase in expenditures. We have had enough of that. It is time for this Treasurer to reflect upon the economic needs of average individual taxpayers—the men and women who work every day; who have families to raise, homes to pay for and mortgages to meet; who have financing payments to make and want to save a little bit of money for the future of their children because it is going to cost more to get into university to get them educated.

We think the Treasurer should have spent more time reflecting on those needs and not the needs of some of the greedy ministers over there, who have let administrative costs get out of control. We think that should be the proper attitude that the Treasurer should bring to the budget-making process. Upon reflection, I believe the Treasurer will agree and amend his budget, because we cannot support the budget we have.

**Mr D. R. Cooke:** I am always interested in listening to the member for Cochrane South (Mr Pope). He approaches these issues with a sense of concern and sincerity, although sometimes a little misguided. I did look up page 58 in the budget and I do note that he is correct. For established programs, financing interim 1988-89, we are expecting to receive from the federal government \$2,674,000,000. Next year we can budget for \$2,676,000,000, which I think is pretty well what you would call flat-lining.

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The speech from the throne on 25 April gave us a focused commitment on behalf of the government in serving the people of this province.

A focused commitment is important, but it is not enough. If we are to truly succeed in serving this province, we must have more than focus, we must in fact have commitment and we must possess a vision that allows us to be innovative in our approach and that takes a positive response to a growing, dynamic society. I believe this government does have a vision of what Ontario can be and it seems to me that that vision is in fact reflected in this budget.

This budget goes beyond recognizing the problems we face. It transcends pinpointing them and looks for viable solutions to them. It was incredibly innovative to read. It dares to innovate. It recognizes that we need to accommodate growth. It outlines ways in which we can best use our resources to create opportunities for our children and for our future, and it was done, again I would say, with an incredible sense of innovation.

The commitment to social assistance reform which was outlined in the budget is one of the clearest examples of a recognition for a need to change. It is curious that the debate in this regard has existed primarily in this province. I would hope it would extend—it must extend, of course—to the rest of Canada if all of the things we wish to have occur can occur.

Our system of social assistance in Ontario holds within it many inequities at the moment.

These are inequities which need to be addressed and which this budget has addressed in a positive way.

This is not only a victory for the people of the province, but it is very much an investment for the future of the province. It is a concept that has been supported by members of all parties, but it is a concept that is going to have to be sold as well by members of all parties.

We have no resource in this province that is more precious and more valuable than our people. To recognize that much of this resource has been neglected or placed in a situation of dependence rather than being given the opportunity to live lives of self-sufficiency is definitely an indisputably positive move.

The money earmarked for the implementation of the STEP program, as we are now calling it, or support to employment, will enable people to gain work skills without facing disincentives; it will allow people to seek decent, affordable housing; it will give children better benefits, and it will provide a better remuneration through what will in October be the highest minimum wage in Canada.

Of the recipients of social services, 40 per cent are children, and most people do not realize or grasp that. By making their lives better and giving them the opportunities by removing barriers to them, we build for the future. By allocating an additional \$37 million over two years to combat drug abuse, we are making sure that these children get a chance to live.

The \$10 million allocated to the Ontario home renewal program for disabled persons, the \$38.4 million allocated to making government buildings accessible and the \$5 million allocated to improve transportation services for the disabled, all of these things, will enable disabled persons and senior citizens alike to live fuller and more complete lives.

But perhaps the most important reform in this budget is the reform which springs from some of the submissions of the Ontario Public Health Association to the standing committee on finance and economic affairs and the Thomson report and others concerning the health care system.

Opposition members endorse the Social Assistance Review Committee report, and as far as I can grasp, opposition members endorse the reforms which have been announced by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney). In doing so, unless they believe there is a bottomless pit, they have to endorse something else: They have to endorse a change in the thrust of our health care system.

Here is a book I have been coming to swear by very recently. It was referred to me initially by the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan). If I am carried away by this book, *Second Opinion*, by Michael Rachlis and Carol Kushner, to the point that I perhaps am disagreeing in some cases with some of the things the ministry is saying, I have to lay the blame on the minister, because she is the one who brought the book to my attention.

I was so entranced by this book that I brought it into the House during the throne speech to read it. I left the House for about five minutes and it disappeared. That copy of it has never been seen since. I am not laying any blame, because it would be unparliamentary of me, about where it went and why it went. In any event, I hope whoever has my original copy is reading it very thoroughly.

The book does a number of things. First, with very clear statistics it lays to rest a number of myths I have had about the health care system. I come from a family with a number of doctors and dentists on both sides of the family in the generation ahead of me, and I suppose I just accepted a lot of the thoughts without ever putting my mind to them. But I am now taking a second look at a lot of this.

Perhaps I can sum up some of the things in this book by referring to examples of two different approaches to problems, essentially medical problems, or health care problems, shall we say, which occurred with a problem starting in January 1978 and continuing to January 1988. The case studies in this book refer to two particular people who had the same thing happen to them starting in 1978 and continuing through to their unfortunate deaths in January 1988.

In case A, it was a gentleman who had a heart attack in January 1978. He spent 20 days in the hospital. Over the next 10 years his health continued to deteriorate. A lot of it was attributed to his refusal to quit smoking, his refusal to change his eating habits, and his sedentary lifestyle. He had another serious heart attack in 1981 and a further one in 1984, which made it impossible for him to walk even a few blocks; in 1986, he had a fourth heart attack, and he was eventually consumed by a stroke in 1988, with doctors doing everything they could to assist him in the meantime. It is estimated that it cost about \$100,000 to care for him over that period of time. About 95 per cent of that money was public money.

The second example is of a woman, 23 years old, a housewife with two children, who was beaten by her husband in January 1978 and went

to an emergency department, received some help, looked for a women's shelter—in 1978, two out of three women looking for shelter were unable to find any, because they were not available—and eventually returned home to her husband and lived with him, with continued beatings occurring. She finally left him in 1987 and found another place to live. Unfortunately, in January 1988 he attacked her in a drunken rage and killed her. In the interim, other things happened, including the alleged sexual assault on her children by the husband. The cost of her health care is estimated at somewhere between \$7,000 and \$10,000.

Why did we choose to spend so much more money on the first situation, when the person concerned perhaps could have been of more help to himself than he was ready to be, than we did on the second?

1700

I quote from the book: "The way we allocate our health dollars reflects these attitudes. Fear of disease, along with the mistaken idea that health care is totally responsible for our wellbeing, has fuelled the development of a hugely expensive sickness treatment system. When contrasted with a high profile of curative medicine, prevention seems very low-key and undramatic. It just isn't sexy.

"That is why, when it comes to funding, prevention programs lose out to those for sickness treatment time after time. Medical research is a good example. Most research resources are spent looking for cures in the laboratory. This emphasis on germs and genes makes it unlikely that medicine will be able to shed much light on the true underlying causes of illness, the social and environmental context in which diseases flourish.

"In saying this, we are not dismissing the importance of treatment. We are simply arguing that the more emphasis on prevention would obviate the need for treatment in the first place, and in so doing, the argument progresses to the argument..." and they go through, pointing out that, for instance, smallpox is the only disease that has been completely cured in modern times and it was done basically by prevention rather than by treatment or cure. It is something that perhaps we should be taking a close look at as we look at our major causes of concern today, perhaps heart attacks and cancer. They come to the conclusion that:

"A health care system should be one in which the patients come first; planning, administration and delivery of health care should be decentral-

ized; quality assistance mechanisms must be deployed and implemented; the number of doctors entering our system must be reduced; the financing and financial incentives must be changed to encourage efficiency and quality; and the needs must be community-based."

The member for Cochrane South has just indicated that we do not have enough doctors, but we have more doctors in our community at present than most health economists feel we need. As I recall, Larry Grossman, when he was Minister of Health, quoted figures to the effect that the number of doctors in the community per person did not need to be as high as it is today.

This book argues that one of the greatest causes of poor health is poverty. Poor health starts before birth and continues with the single-parent mother becoming overweight, perhaps because her scanty food budget means she saves fruit and vegetables for the children and eats starchy food herself. Children in poor families are much more likely to have low birth weight, and there are attending problems with that.

Dr Henry Dunne, a professor of paediatrics at the University of British Columbia, says that data from 125,000 births over a five-year period in Montreal showed that unwed mothers had a more than 60 per cent chance of being poor, and more than half were very poor indeed, with incomes 30 per cent or more below the poverty level. Single women with the lowest levels of education were three times more likely to deliver underweight babies. Poor nutrition, smoking and inadequate prenatal care all contribute to this syndrome. All are common characteristics, unfortunately, of the poor.

Workplace accidents are common characteristics of the poor. A lack of social support, perhaps loneliness, might be as well. Tests show that poorer children are more likely to have psychiatric as well as physical illnesses.

The problem, then, is that our attitude is treatment oriented. To some extent, it is a doctor-driven system. In Ontario today a doctor is told that if he treats four extra common head colds a day he can earn himself an extra \$20,000 a year. In Ontario today a nurse is prohibited by law from diagnosing a common head cold, let alone treating it. We must reassess the limits of the nursing profession and other professions which can be of assistance in the health care system so that these professions can play a greater role and a more responsible role.

Let us start with this budget to allocate our resources and to deal with the problems and not

the results. This is of course a very major financial concern we have, with the health care system taking now in excess of a third of the budget of the province. The budget signals a start to defining health care much more broadly than has been done in the past.

I understand the Premier's Council on Health Strategy has released a report on these matters, and I just received it as I was listening to the member for Cochrane South. I am not sure of everything that is in it, but I rather expect, as I look at the goals on the frontispiece, that they are not that different from what we are saying here. The goals should be to "shift the emphasis...to health promotion and disease prevention; foster strong and supportive families and communities; ensure a safe and high-quality physical environment;" increase the number of years of good health for the citizens of Ontario, "by reducing illness, disability and premature death, and provide accessible, affordable and appropriate health services for all."

Basically, what I am saying is that if we are going to do this as responsible members of the Legislature, then we have to refrain from taking the sexy, high-profile situation where an operation may not be available at the moment when it is desired and realize that we have to limit some of those procedures in order to provide better health care, better preventive health care, to all.

Dr K. J. Fyke of the University of Victoria indicates: "Focusing our attention away from illness treatment models to health promotion initiatives which promote healthy lifestyles, environment and standards of living is what needs to be done. There is strong and convincing evidence that, for example, an individual's level of income, housing and education are important determinants of health.

"As well, providing quality health care requires the government to take initiatives which are designed to achieve three goals. They are: (a) to redirect funding towards research which measures outcomes, including quality-of-life indices from current hospital procedures and technologies, and which provides a framework for evaluating the impact of new technologies and medical procedures before they are introduced; (b) encouraging innovative ways to restructure the health system towards a health orientation; and (c) to ensure that current and future public policies, whether they pertain to highways, forests, social services or agriculture, are made in the light of their impact on health.

"Finally, providing high-quality health care requires consumer involvement in the decision-

making process relating to his or her own health care. This means informing the consumer of his or her own capacity to achieve better health and encouraging him or her to become the primary decision-maker in regard to his or her own health care."

This government has recognized that health care is an ongoing and effective preventive and community-based service. This government has accepted that concept, and I think that is the cause of a lot of the friction that sometimes occurs in this House.

This budget recognizes the need for funding of community and personal health programs. While overall spending is increased by 10.7 per cent on health care, to \$13.9 billion this year, community-based programs have increased by significantly higher percentages. Home care assistance received a 24.9 per cent increase, to \$349 million. Community mental health programs have increased 30 per cent, to \$108 million. Alcohol and drug dependency programs have received a 17.8 per cent increase, to \$43 million. These allocations show that this government recognizes the need for a noninstitutional approach to health and health care.

#### 1710

The standing committee on finance and economic affairs recommended, after hearing submissions from health care groups, that health care costs be contained through reorganizing the priorities and the use of cost-effective programs. I would now recommend that this is not only a cost-saving recommendation, but one that may lead to a healthier Ontario.

Community-based and preventive health care measures deal with people as people rather than foreign elements of a huge system. Authors Rachlis and Kushner have been concerned that they do not wish this book to be used by politicians as a crutch, and I think we have to be careful not to do so. We have to use it for a careful restructuring of our social system. The throne speech clearly links the management of the environment to health and to a healthy society. Indeed, the two should be linked, for if you live in a polluted environment you cannot be healthy. Everywhere today we are faced with tough environmental choices, choices that have to be made and enforced in order for Ontario to be healthy.

The Ministry of the Environment's allocation in this year's budget is \$528 million, an increase of 20 per cent from last year. I see two positive trends in environmental management and this government is committed to progressing with

both of them. We will approach challenges both old and new in innovative ways. Last Wednesday's budget committed much time and effort to user-oriented environmental levies and preventive environment initiatives. The support for established and new programs shows this government's commitment to the ongoing management of an ecologically fragile environment.

At a town hall meeting that I recently facilitated, we grappled with the issue of growth and there were five separate individuals who made five separate submissions concerning the implications of growth on the environment. We had concerns that ranged from the impact of the ozone deterioration to the shortage of landfill sites, the shortage of water we face in Waterloo region and the need for increased industrial and residential recycling programs. But these five individuals did share a common belief: that we must think globally and act locally, by making the users of environmentally detrimental products or services pay for them.

That concept was coming back time and time again and I am delighted to see it in this budget. This government has embodied that sentiment with initiatives like the gas-guzzler tax, the nonreturnable alcohol container disposal fee and the end to retail sales tax exemptions for fertilizers and pesticides. But we have gone beyond penalties, we have gone beyond taking punitive measures against those who pollute, with programs such as the environmental technologies program which will provide grants to private firms to help reduce costs and improve the effectiveness of pollution control.

Complementing this is the expansion of the cost adjustment program, the continuation of the EnerSearch program and the implementation of loans for environmental defence. These programs will provide research capital for private firms and money for companies to ease them in the transition to safer and stricter environmental standards. Protecting the environment from further damage, working realistically to prevent harm, is what we must do, both for today and for the future.

In the area of education, our initiatives will build for our children by increasing operating grants by 6.1 per cent, to \$4.1 billion in 1989-90. As well, the three-year, \$900-million capital grant for new school construction will be extended to \$1.2 billion over four years. Both of these initiatives will help ease the pressures that our public and separate school systems face today. They need to provide quality education to growing numbers of young Ontarians.

This education has increased pressures for us to be technologically advanced. The \$60 million allocated for our technological fund between 1990 and 1995 will help to meet the demands of a more highly skilled labour force. If we want to stay competitive, and we must, we need to ensure that we are offering relevant education to the residents of this province.

Education does not begin when you begin school and end when you finish school. Education is a continuous process, of course, throughout life. The extension of the Transitions program and the increased commitment on behalf of this government to adult literacy programs are this budget's acknowledgements of this fact. Workers who either lack the skills or have obsolete skills must have the opportunity to be re-educated, to be retrained and to be given new lives. What took brawn then, takes brains now. The people of Ontario are willing to make the adjustments if we continue to provide the opportunities that we have.

Colleges and universities are expected to fulfil many roles. They teach the young and the old, they both train and educate. They are to be universal in that they are to serve any student who fulfils the entrance requirements. We are going in the right direction with our university funding, but we need to continue to give as many Ontarians the best possible education we can. This year our government has continued the \$10-million commitment to capital projects. We have increased operating grants by 7.5 per cent for universities and 5.6 per cent for colleges. As well, the government has continued to be committed to making campuses more accessible and increasing Ontario student assistance program assistance to \$196 million. Incidentally, that has gone up 55 per cent since 1984-85.

Centres of excellence, located since 1987 around the province, will receive \$42 million in funding this year. Since 1987, when these centres were established, they have provided vital research in various high-technology areas to compete and to succeed in our growing global economic community. Ontario needs to remain committed to this development.

Development in this province includes transportation. As our population centres around urban areas, we must provide for people needing to transport themselves from one place to another. Whether it is for work or for pleasure, a world-class transportation system is essential if we are to remain competitive. It also tends to make people's lives easier and more fulfilled. The government's initiatives in this area are

commendable, and if this government had not put forth these initiatives now, Toronto might have been known in the future as the city that never moves. I might indicate that, roughly speaking, the new tax revenues the government intends to receive will approximate the amount of money that will be expended on transportation, according to the Treasurer.

This government can claim victory in its taxation provisions regarding transportation because many of the roads and highways that need to be built and improved are, in fact, in the greater Toronto area. This government has shown a commitment to equity in making Toronto the source of revenue for many of those roads and highways. From the annual levy on parking and commercial property in the greater Toronto area to the differentiated licence renewal fees, this government has shown fairness in commitment to generating revenue from those who use the service.

The Christian Science Monitor has an interesting article which points out that Toronto, unlike other communities in North America, has basically a real estate oligopoly which owns and controls a great deal of the real estate in downtown Toronto. That oligopoly will probably be the loser with regard to the taxation on commercial development. It points out that a report on Toronto's property market by Salomon Brothers, a New York-based investments firm, says that the downtown Toronto office market is one of the only ones in North America that is dominated by such a cartel. It names Olympia and York, the Big Five banks and Cadillac Fairview. I will come back to that in a minute.

1720

Ontario Budget 1989 has also given us a chance to expand upon and improve upon providing decent and affordable living to every Ontarian. The Homes Now program devotes an additional \$1 billion, which brings our total commitment to \$3 billion. Seventy per cent of the homes produced under this program will provide rent-geared-to-income housing.

Also, this government has shown its commitment to new home buyers by refunding the land transfer tax to those first-time buyers registered in the Ontario home ownership savings plan who purchase houses worth up to \$150,000. It will also partially renew if those first-time home buyers now purchase and pay under \$200,000.

I would just like to say how much we have done in the area of housing. In a growing and dynamic society, housing becomes scarce. Since I came here in 1985, I have watched the solutions

and options we have for the future of housing grow. We must constantly look at new means, tirelessly look at new ways and ceaselessly look at new options.

The member for Guelph (Mr Ferraro) will know as well as I do how tense the housing market has been in our area.

We must continue to work towards every individual being housed affordably and properly. I will support the minister and her ministry in any way I can, in order that we may explore new ways to create housing, be innovative in our approach and be fair in our assessment of what is needed. This government has brought to life the reality that housing is not a privilege, but some sort of housing is basically a right. We have to continue in this positive direction.

We have made significant and vital changes and announced new initiatives in the areas of social assistance, education, health, the environment, transportation and housing.

We have also made a new commitment to culture. In total, the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) has allocated \$25 million in increased support to cultural agencies and institutions. The Ontario Arts Council, TVOntario, capital funding of the Royal Ontario Museum, Science North, the Royal Botanical Gardens, the International Telecommunications Discovery Centre and the McMichael Gallery will all receive capital improvement grants. This will allow Ontario further to establish itself as a cultural centre and it will respond to the recent federal cuts with a \$34-million apportionment over the next two years to the film industry.

These two initiatives, combined with the continued commitment to the tourism redevelopment incentive program, which the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr O'Neil) announced just the day before the budget, and the Canada-Ontario tourism development agreement will continue to make Ontario the tourist focus for those both inside and outside the province.

Once again, the standing committee on finance and economic affairs may have had—we will never know for sure, but I think it has—some effect on the budget. If we exclude item 5 from our recommendations, which is revenue sources, and look at the other 21 recommendations, we will note that three of them are not really budgetary matters and hopefully will be addressed in another manner.

The establishment of a socioeconomic round table is a very important one, if I may talk about that for just a moment. The concept is that the Social Assistance Review Committee's work

was basically new work. It was work that we had never really done in this province. In the whole history of social assistance in this province, we had never looked at the needs of the poor. When the look took place, apparently—they report to us—they found a number of things, a number of concepts, which were outmoded and which had never really been addressed; some going back to the First World War, when our approaches to this sort of thing were very different.

This is the third prebudget report which our committee has produced to the Legislature. I recall we received at least one submission last year on this issue, and we may have had more, but we certainly did not have enough to press us on it and we certainly did not really address it in our deliberations. The chances are, the poor being as they are, not being articulate, this could occur again down the road in the future. The chances are that we could go another 70 years before the problem becomes so big, so gigantic, that we would be forced once again to look at it.

What is needed in these circumstances, in my submission, is a round table, a council to be set up to look constantly and to remind us constantly of the need that we have in this province to be aware of social concerns and social problems when we are addressing the economy.

The Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review, which is an excellent document which is produced in the fall of the year by the Treasury and on which we base a lot of our deliberations, does not include a section on social impact. Perhaps it should, but then again, they have asked us for our submissions and we have not ever said to them, in the last two years, that it should. This year I am saying it should and that should be a preface to the work of that round table.

The other two things really are not budgetary matters, because a round table is not something that really can be addressed in a budget but should be addressed elsewhere. We did suggest a need for improved consultations concerning native affairs and multiculturalism.

If you take those things out and look at the 18 items remaining, 17 of them have been addressed in this budget.

We asked unanimously, all parties, for complete social assistance reform and we got it. We asked unanimously for a cross-ministry cost-benefit analysis of what is now being called STEP—STEP, incidentally, is the support to employment program—and we are getting, according to this budget, an independent review of the effectiveness of our reforms.

I am delighted to hear that. I think we need to continue the debate as to just what that should involve. There has been some feeling in the committee, frankly, that maybe that would involve the government assessing itself. I frankly think the word “independent” in the budget may be a response to us that it needs to be done outside the government so that the natural inclination, I suppose, of civil servants to protect their own turf will not result in it being less valuable than it should be.

We asked for an introduction of lot levies as a source of revenue for boards of education and we got the Development Charges Act. We asked for additional funds for research, capital and operating grants to post-secondary education. I have already reviewed the results of that. We asked, we got it, and we also got new funding for the Ontario student assistance program.

We asked for containment of health care costs through a reorganizing of priorities and a using of cost-effective programs and an emphasis on preventive health care models and we got it.

We asked for improved salaries and working conditions in community service organizations. I feel that is not something that is a big public issue, and if it occurs—and it would look as if it will by this budget—it may well be that it is principally because of our plea.

We asked for more funding for child care programs and spending. Despite federal cut-backs, which will continue to grow in this area, the funding will continue to grow as it has since 1985. If you count the funding from 1985 to the present time, it has grown at a rate of 31 per cent per annum.

Finally, we asked for increased funding for programs for the disabled and we got it.

Once again, for a third straight year, we have played some role—and this time, I like to feel, a fairly major role—in shaping a budget.

### 1730

This year, however, for the first time, we did seriously look at the more sensitive issue of revenues. I think we discovered that it was a much more difficult chore to look at that area, and I am proud of the members of the committee for the strong stands that were taken in this regard. It is much easier, especially for government members I suppose, to try and hide behind certain anonymity and allow the Treasurer to take the flak for that area. We did not. We took a stand.

Some of our ideas, such as a further increase in personal income tax and a further increase in the liquor tax, have been adopted. Other of our

ideas, such as looking at a net wealth tax, increasing a surtax on high-income earners and introducing a minimum corporate tax, were rejected, for the time being at least, but they were rejected in favour of what I would call some very innovative and user-sensitive levies.

We asked that the Treasurer work towards eliminating net cash requirements and reducing the deficit. Of course, what we got was a net cash surplus of \$478 million, a deficit lower, in absolute dollars, than it has been in the last 15 years and an operating surplus of \$2.6 billion, so 82 per cent of new capital programs will be financed out of current revenues, a concept which surely any industry would be proud to be able to do.

We now have a total debt which apparently takes about 12.6 months to pay, according to the budget. When this government came into office, that was 15.9 months. Interest payments are about 10.5 per cent of our current revenue, compared to the federal government's 35 per cent.

We do have innovative and user-sensitive levies. I refer to the tax on fuel-inefficient passenger cars; the end of the retail sales tax exemption on fertilizers and pesticides; the enhancement of the Ontario tax reduction program, which in essence creates more progressivity in the tax situation, and assistance for first-time home buyers, along with sensible adjustments in the land transfer tax.

The budget includes an incredibly interesting documentation of what assists people and what assists business and where moneys come from. People will pay more in gasoline and fuel tax, business vehicle registration, personal income tax, beverage alcohol, environmental taxes and drivers' licence fees, but they will in fact gain a total of \$1 billion in not having to pay OHIP premiums at, I think it is, \$714 a year per family. The total impact on people is, in fact, reduced taxes in the amount of \$400 million.

On business, the total impact is increased taxes in the amount of \$762 million, but when you look at perhaps the most significant part of that, the employer health levy, you realize that the greatest payer of increased tax in that regard is the federal government, and we are, I suppose, simply innovatively replacing moneys which were removed from us a few weeks earlier by Mr Wilson.

Then we have the commercial construction levy. I was speaking earlier of the significance of that particular tax and the companies that may have, in the end, to pay large proportions of that,

Olympia and York, Cadillac Fairview, banks and other companies that seem to have a lot of money to invest in that sort of thing. As well, it is user-sensitive in that it will hopefully help to control the use of automobiles in the congested parts of cities.

In the circumstances of the extent to which the finance committee has gone somewhere in looking at revenues, it might be valuable and the committee might be able to serve this Legislature and the Treasurer well if we commence a thoughtful and thorough review of all revenue-generating possibilities and their impact, including the province's appropriate response to the national sales tax, which we know will have a major inflationary impact on the province. A lot of other things about it we do not know.

I listened very carefully to the member for Nickel Belt (Mr Laughren) on Thursday. He is right when he says that some of our large corporate conglomerates are not paying their fair share of taxes. In fairness, I think the Treasurer challenged the finance committee on that back in 1986 when he asked us to come up with a solution. We did hear a lot of evidence but did not come up with a solution. He has now, in essence, come up with a partial solution.

I was interested in reading in this morning's Globe and Mail an article in the business section under the title "Worth Repeating" by John Raymond, written apparently by the chairman of Trilon Corp, Melvin Hawkrigg, in which Mr Hawkrigg says:

"In Ontario, one third of all students drop out before grade 12. Only 50 per cent of those who reach grade 12 are considered as having a 'high school education.' Of the 33 who go to university, 20 to 40 per cent fail in the first year."

He goes on to say:

"In spite of our continuing rising education costs, it is estimated that more than 22 per cent of Canadians over the age of 15 are functionally illiterate. What an appalling indictment of our education system."

Unfortunately, he is probably accurate in so far as functional illiteracy is concerned. I am happy to see that there is budget money appropriated for relieving that problem and there is budget money that we have talked about with regard to the improvement of education. The opposition may say there is not enough.

I was interested in trying to determine what the Trilon Corp is. I note that in the Financial Post silver anniversary edition of the top 500 companies, the Trilon Corp ranked seventh behind the Big Five banks and caisses populaires in assets of

financial institutions in Canada and it ranked sixth in revenue. It has \$31.8 billion in assets and had \$3.9 billion in revenue last year.

What does it contribute to the tax system? The 1987 annual report of Trilon indicates:

"Income taxes which include \$1 million deferred income expense reflect an effective tax rate which is lower than the statutory rate. The difference between the approximate 50 per cent statutory rate in 1986 and 1987 and the effective rate is accounted for principally by nontaxable investment income and also by lower foreign tax rates."

If we look back, we see that they have a tax rate of \$31 million they paid in income tax on \$181 million of income, which means a tax rate of 17 per cent. This is not exactly the going corporate rate that one would have expected.

I also note that the Hees International Corp is a little further down in the Financial Post top 500. They have deferred taxes on a net income of \$150 million and they are not paying any taxes this year.

By and large, these companies are paper shufflers. I do not know to what extent. There may be some extent to which they contribute, but I do not see a great extent to which they contribute to our productivity. Perhaps we should investigate them and perhaps we should investigate the extent of taxation that can be given to the banks.

But in this area, we have had a very good start. Then when we do that, we can put even more money into the apprenticeship programs as Mr Hawkrigg requests. In other words, we have very serious work to do to make certain that we break down the barriers to training and employment. We have very serious work to do to make certain that we can compete with the global economy by having skilled workers and by aggressively pursuing new markets, to make certain that our health care system works and our environment is clean and to make sure that everyone in our society has a chance. That is why I intend to vote for this budget. Let's get started.

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**Mr Morin-Strom:** I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this year's budget debate and to be our second speaker following the Treasury critic, who made an excellent address on our behalf late last week.

**Hon Mr Conway:** I read the Sault Ste Marie Star last week and found some very interesting comments.

**Mr Morin-Strom:** I am sure the member is going to find many more interesting comments today.

**Hon Mr Conway:** I see Bud Wildman favours province-wide pooling. I didn't know that.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The member will address his remarks through the chair and ignore all the interjections.

**Mr Morin-Strom:** We will get to these and many other issues as the debate goes on.

In summary, for the average taxpayer this budget is really one that indicates a Liberal drift on policy, and particularly the important issue of tax fairness. For the average taxpayer, the Ontario Liberals have just finished the job Michael Wilson started.

Stripped of all the self-congratulatory rhetoric, the government has made a tax grab of over \$1 billion in new tax dollars for the second year in a row: another jump in the income tax rate, a series of tax increases on everything from beer to gas to licence plates and another kick in the teeth for municipalities and school boards with the inevitable round of property tax increases to follow.

The greatest deception is the abject failure of the Liberal government to make the tax system any fairer for ordinary working people. The wealthy do not have to worry about an inheritance tax or a wealth tax from this government. Banks and financial institutions are unscathed. There is nothing new on the capital tax and nothing new on corporate tax rates. In fact, there is a \$5-million giveaway. The Treasurer continues to piggyback on every unfair tax increase the federal Tories have brought in. This is a government without the courage to set its own direction.

That tax grab is in the face of a dramatically slowing economy, from 4.8 per cent growth in gross domestic product in 1989 to a projected 2.8 per cent next year. Only half as many new jobs will be created next year as this and unemployment will rise in Ontario. Inflation will jump by more than a percentage point, to 5.8 per cent.

There is nothing on child care and nothing to improve the job prospects of working people apart from a tiny increase in the minimum wage, token expenditures on literacy and training and just \$10 million to address labour market needs. That does not begin to address the needs of 1,700 workers in northern Ontario who have lost their jobs because of the export tax on softwood lumber, let alone the thousands of Ontarians out of work because of the free trade agreement.

There is no serious change in environmental spending or programs to reflect the crying need to deal with garbage and the reduction of waste production.

With more than \$40 billion in revenue, the government could have done lots of things to make taxes fairer, improve services and raise the quality of life for the citizens of Ontario. They did not, and that is too bad. The drift from this government continues, and nowhere is that drift more serious than when it deals with the issues facing northern Ontario.

We can look in vain for programs or new funding for northern Ontario in last week's provincial budget from the Liberals; we will not find them. Laid-off workers get nothing. Those with innovative ideas who thought there might be an infusion of capital into the northern Ontario heritage fund can forget it: there are no new funds. Municipalities that thought much-needed northern road construction would get a boost are disappointed.

Let's start with job loss. The Ontario government has talked a lot about helping those in the north who have lost or will lose their work because of the free trade agreement or the 15 per cent tax on softwood lumber exports to the United States. There is nothing specific for these northern Ontarians.

For example, government revenues from the softwood lumber tax will be \$18 million in the next year but none of it is going to help those who have lost their jobs because of it, despite previous promises to that effect. There is no industry in Ontario that is under more severe strain than the lumber industry in northern Ontario.

The government has come up with \$19 million for labour adjustment for the whole province, \$9 million of which will go for the federal program for older worker adjustment for laid-off employees over 55. Government officials estimate this will help about 1,000 workers. That is small solace, for there are already 1,700 jobless in the lumber industry alone and 700 will be out of work when the iron mines in Kirkland Lake and Temagami close.

Instead of significant new money to help with needed economic development and diversification, the northern Ontario heritage fund gets no new money.

A communique accompanying the budget quotes the provincial Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) as saying, "Our improvement of roads and highways in the north continues at a steady pace." It would be quite a funny statement if he did not actually mean it. Northern roads and highways need significant improvement immediately but there is no new money from the province. That is bad news and there is more bad news for municipalities in the north. The freeze

on unconditional grants continues. An average of 20 per cent of northern municipalities' budgets comes from these unconditional grants, a hardship that is inflicted far more on northern communities than others in the province.

By not increasing taxes on mining companies despite the record-breaking profits they continue to make, the government has missed a glorious opportunity to increase revenues. Ironically, just last week in the Quebec budget, an increase in corporate tax was announced that would take additional revenues of \$138 million. To add insult to injury, the only government ministry to have had its budget reduced is the Ministry of Natural Resources, which will have to provide services, particularly in the forest sector, with three per cent less money than the year before.

This budget has been a travesty in terms of the opportunities that have been lost to Ontario. At a time when the economy remains strong, when budget revenues are exceeding expectations, this government and this Treasurer had the opportunity to take forceful steps that could have meant an improved economy, particularly in those regions which still have levels of unemployment that are far too high and which need action with respect to diversification of the economy and a more balanced industrial structure.

I would like to look through some of the subjects the Treasurer has brought up, particularly in his budget address. I think it is appropriate that I have this early opportunity to address the budget, because two of the first sections in the Treasurer's address are on areas of critic responsibility for which I am the New Democratic Party's critic: Industry, Trade and Technology and Transportation.

In both of these areas, the government has been seriously remiss in the action that is needed to build on the strength of this province and to ensure there is fairer distribution of the economic wealth in the future and security for workers for years to come.

**Hon Mr Conway:** Can we have your sketch plans for the new Jerusalem at a tax rate that does not suffocate everyone?

**Mr Morin-Strom:** I think we are getting a lot of interruptions, which I do not believe happened during the previous speaker.

The budget starts with the subject of keeping Ontario competitive. I agree with the statement that "Ontario must secure and support its competitive position to keep the economy growing and to maintain our quality of life." However, after this government had spent more than two years fighting a free trade initiative from

the federal Conservatives, we have no response in this major document to the most important economic issue that our province and our country has faced in the past several years.

This government has done nothing and has proposed nothing to deal with the dislocation that this government knows is going to happen as a result of that agreement.

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The government could have taken steps to ensure that the adjustments would occur with sensitivity to the working people of this province and to ensure that we can maintain some control on our corporate sector, particularly when it comes to the contradictions between lack of initiatives in the government and the direction that the Premier's Council on technology has been recommending to the government.

The Premier (Mr Peterson) formed the council more than two years ago and it has now printed at least two major studies on where industry should be going in Ontario. I think it is unfortunate that this government has ignored these studies and has not taken some of the progressive steps that are in these studies in terms of competing in the new global environment. There are recommendations in here, but the government has continued to take a stand emphasizing a high-tech future for the province, emphasizing certain industries at the expense of many critical industries that have been of greatest importance to the province and will continue to be for many years to come.

With respect to the allocations that are referred to in the budget statement, the budget says that this year over \$132 million will be provided out of the \$1-billion, 10-year technology fund, but where are these funds going? The largest single amount is \$47 million that is going in tax support available through the research and development superallowance; and that is not going to particular new initiatives that are going to develop industry in Ontario. These are further tax write-offs, opportunities for industries to eliminate their tax liability to Ontario, not for developments which are going to occur here in Ontario, but rather, the emphasis is on the purchase of equipment and machinery for industries in the province.

We know that the vast majority of equipment and machinery purchases occur not here in Ontario but outside of the country. We are a net importer of machinery and equipment, but what does this government do? It does not encourage the development of that industry in Ontario and ensure that those funds go to the development of

strong machinery and equipment industries that make sense for the kinds of major industries we have in Ontario. Instead, those secondary industries are being encouraged outside the province and we are going to give tax write-offs for the purchase of that equipment from suppliers in Japan, Germany, the United States and elsewhere. Surely that is a nonsense allocation.

The second major source of funds is the \$40 million going to the Ontario centres of excellence. This program is funding major centres at universities throughout southern Ontario. None of these centres of excellence, which involve consortia of industry and universities in the province, involves any industries or universities in northern Ontario.

This program has been totally discriminatory in terms of its approach. It has not addressed major industries such as the forest industry, such as the mining industry, such as the transportation industry, which is so critical to a province the size of Ontario. Instead, a few selected university departments in southern Ontario are getting some additional funds, which they do desperately need because the province is unwilling to provide ongoing capital and operating funds for the major universities of this province. Instead of adequate base and regular operating funds to our universities and our research capability on an ongoing basis, the province's approach is to pick and select a few university departments at the bigger universities in the province and target them for special selection and they do get some funds to maintain their programs. But meanwhile, other university departments continue to be starved by the province.

**Hon Mr Conway:** Last week the Sault Star wrote that Dr Morin-Strom was having some good news to say about this budget.

**Mr Morin-Strom:** We will get to the good things in a short while.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr Morin-Strom:** The members who have sat on the standing committee on finance and economic affairs know full well that during the process of public hearings that we have held on this budget for the past three years, universities have been one of the areas which have consistently lobbied and have consistently come forward with their prime needs to maintain quality university programs. They have told us directly—whether it is the faculty associations, the Council of Ontario Universities or the Ontario Federation of Students—they have all told us that the quality is not up to the standards that it should be,

because the funding has been starved by the province.

When it comes to research capabilities, our province is not on the forefront of research in the world university setting; and unless this government realizes that it cannot just pick and choose and provide some additional funding to an occasional department in a university through programs such as this centres of excellence program, this province is not going to go anywhere when it comes to research.

The funding from this province has been an embarrassment, when it comes to our universities and our capability to be able to provide quality, competitive research facilities and equipment for the students that we are trying to train in Ontario.

In terms of university funding, one area that is particularly discriminatory is the funding for northern Ontario. As taxpayers from the north, we fund our universities. We provide between eight and nine per cent of the population of this province and the tax revenues of this province, but we get less than half of that back in terms of university places and university funds in northern Ontario. The total budget of all the universities in northern Ontario is smaller than any one of the major universities in southern Ontario.

One could take a university such as the University of Waterloo, which is an excellent university, one of two serving a relatively small population area, and that budget for that one university is approximately double the total university budget of all of the universities in northern Ontario combined.

This government has continued to lack an economic direction and has lacked—

**Hon Mr O'Neil:** Somebody from the Sault saying that!

**Mr Morin-Strom:** We know the needs in northern Ontario, in terms of diversifying our economy, in building on our base. The next topic in the budget has to deal with the transportation infrastructure and the transportation investment in this province, and if there is ever an area that has been starved for funds, it is transportation in Ontario.

The Ministry of Transportation has not received increases in its funds to keep up with inflation. Expenditures on roads have not kept up with needs. Road budgets have fallen in comparison with other expenditures in the province and in the last 17 years, the slice of Ontario's budgetary expenditures to the Ministry of Transportation has shrunk from 13.5 per cent to 5.2 per cent. On the other hand, there has been a tremendous increase in road usage.

In northern Ontario particularly, the need for highways is critical to the economic future of our area and this province has done nothing, this government has done nothing, in the last two years, about the development of a major trans-Canada highway that would link the major centres in northern Ontario with their markets in southern Ontario and elsewhere.

Until this government addresses the problems in northern Ontario, budgets like these are not going to have any acceptance from the people of the north. I would suggest that this government look again at why northern Ontario was ignored in this budget.

At this time, it being six o'clock, I move that the debate be adjourned. I will continue tomorrow.

On motion by Mr Morin-Strom, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 1801.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

## POLICE TRAINING

**2. Mr Jackson:** Would the Solicitor General clarify the statement in her news release of 23 February 1989 that, "We intend to hire a police officer who will be responsible for developing and implementing a strategy to establish a level of expertise among police in dealing with sexual assault," by providing the date on which this police officer was hired or is expected to be hired? [Originally tabled 27 February 1989. Tabled 26 April 1989]

**Hon Mrs Smith:** The training manager is expected to begin work with the policy development and co-ordination branch on 15 June 1989.

**3. Mr Jackson:** Would the Solicitor General clarify the statement in her news release of 23 February 1989 that, "We intend to hire a police officer who will be responsible for developing and implementing a strategy to establish a level of expertise among police in dealing with sexual assault," by providing (a) the salary or salary range of this officer, (b) the length of the contract if the officer is not to be hired on a permanent basis and (c) the division of the Ministry of the Solicitor General, and the branch within that division, to which this police officer is or will be assigned? [Originally tabled 27 February 1989. Tabled 26 April 1989]

**Hon Mrs Smith:** The policy development and co-ordination branch hopes to second an officer at the level of staff sergeant or above for a one-year period with the option for renewal for an additional year. The salary range for this position is \$52,000 to \$60,000. The officer will work with the community initiatives unit of the ministry's policy development and co-ordination branch for the first six months to develop the training strategy and begin its implementation, with ongoing reporting to the policing services division.

**4. Mr Jackson:** Would the Solicitor General clarify the statement in her news release of 23 February 1989 that, "We intend to hire a police officer who will be responsible for developing and implementing a strategy to establish a level of expertise among police in dealing with sexual assault," by providing details of the budget allocated to that police officer, including (a) salaries, wages and benefits for support staff hired by this police officer, including their number and the classification of each, (b) office expenses, (c) travel and (d) all other expenses

associated with the development and implementation of the strategy referred to? [Originally tabled 27 February 1989. Tabled 26 April 1989]

**Hon Mrs Smith:** The total budget for this initiative will not exceed \$75,000 in fiscal 1989-90, including support staff, office expenses, travel and resource material.

**5. Mr Jackson:** Would the Solicitor General clarify the statement in her news release of 23 February 1989 that, "We intend to hire a police officer who will be responsible for developing and implementing a strategy to establish a level of expertise among police in dealing with sexual assault," by providing the following dates: (a) the date on or by which she expects this strategy to have been developed, (b) the date on or by which she expects this strategy to have been implemented within the Ontario Provincial Police Force and (c) the date(s) on or by which she expects this strategy to have been implemented within other police forces in the province? [Originally tabled 27 February 1989. Tabled 26 April 1989]

**Hon Mrs Smith:** The development of the training strategy should be completed by 1 November 1989 and implemented within the Ontario Provincial Police Force by 1 May 1990. The training strategy should be fully implemented across the province by 31 March 1991.

**6. Mr Jackson:** Would the Solicitor General clarify the statement in her news release of 23 February 1989 that, "We intend to hire a police officer who will be responsible for developing and implementing a strategy to establish a level of expertise among police in dealing with sexual assault," by providing details, if any, of the public consultation planned as part of the development of this strategy? [Originally tabled 27 February 1989. Tabled 26 April 1989]

**Hon Mrs Smith:** There will not be a formal public consultation with respect to the development of the strategy to ensure expertise among police in dealing with sexual assault. The training manager will consult, for example, with other ministry personnel and police bodies, other government personnel, select community groups and other provincial jurisdictions.

**7. Mr Jackson:** Would the Solicitor General clarify the statement in her news release of 23 February 1989 that, "We intend to hire a police officer who will be responsible for developing and implementing a strategy to establish a level

of expertise among police in dealing with sexual assault," by providing (a) the job description for this officer and (b) the terms of reference for his or her work? [Originally tabled 27 February 1989. Tabled 26 April 1989]

**Hon Mrs Smith:** The job description and terms of reference for the training manager are:

**Training manager, sexual assault investigations**

**Job description:** Position title: training manager. Type: contract (secondment) for one year beginning 15 June 1989. Purpose: to ensure police forces in the province have an expertise in dealing with sexual assault investigations.

**Duties and related tasks:**

1. Develop a strategy to ensure all police forces have an expertise in dealing with sexual assault investigations by:

Consulting with provincial forces which have a recognized level of expertise to determine how they achieved this and the mechanisms they use to maintain it;

Determining and assessing the training police officers currently receive;

Consulting with other experts in the area of sexual assault such as members of the interministerial committee on sexual assault, rape crisis centres and the Metropolitan Toronto Action Committee Against Violence Against Women and Children;

Researching the efforts undertaken in other provincial jurisdictions to develop police expertise in sexual assault investigations;

Contacting the municipal police association and the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police to see how the police boards of commissioners can be of assistance in implementation;

Conducting a survey of all police forces to determine their ability to carry out training;

Developing a method for evaluating the training project;

Working with the training manager of the Consider the Victim program to ensure both projects are complementary.

2. Implement the strategy for ensuring expertise by all police forces in dealing with sexual assault investigations by:

Developing a critical path and time frame for the delivery of police training;

Designing and producing relevant resource and course materials;

Developing a means for evaluating each training session by the training manager and other trainers, and make changes as necessary;

Conducting training sessions and other activities;

Resolving problems arising from the training project;

Troubleshooting for forces upon request;

Liaising with the Ontario Police College, Brampton OPP Training Academy and C. O. Bick College;

Working with the community programs coordinator to facilitate joint meetings with local police forces and rape crisis centres.

3. Perform related tasks:

Prepare written reports on the status of the project as requested;

Monitor training budget;

Represent the ministry on committees;

Conduct speaking engagements for the ministry;

Prepare correspondence;

Liaise with other ministry and government personnel and community groups as appropriate;

Participate in evaluation of training project as a whole including ongoing and future police training needs.

**Skills and knowledge required:**

Sound understanding of rape trauma syndrome;

Experience in sexual assault investigations;

Excellent knowledge of victim-related issues in policing;

Ability to maintain good working relations with police officials of all ranks, with ministry personnel and community organizations;

Ability to work as an effective team member;

Excellent training and related verbal and written communication skills;

Good knowledge of the development and production of police training and resource materials;

Demonstrated ability in organization and administration;

Knowledge and experience generally acquired at the rank of staff sergeant or above.

**Salary and benefits:**

To be arranged as part of secondment agreement with the participating police force. Range: \$52,000-\$60,000.

**Reporting relationship:**

To report to the manager, community initiatives, policy development and co-ordination branch.

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS\*

(130 seats)

Second Session, 34th Parliament

**Lieutenant Governor: Hon Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC**

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)  
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)  
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)  
 Beer, Charles (York North L)  
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)  
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)  
**Bradley, Hon James J.**, Minister of the Environment (St Catharines L)  
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)  
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)  
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)  
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)  
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)  
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)  
**Caplan, Hon Elinor**, Minister of Health (Orillia L)  
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)  
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)  
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)  
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)  
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)  
**Conway, Hon Sean G.**, Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)  
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)  
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)  
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)  
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)  
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)  
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)  
**Curling, Hon Alvin**, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)  
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)  
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St Catharines-Brock L)  
**Eakins, Hon John F.**, Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)  
**Edighoffer, Hon Hugh A.**, Speaker (Perth L)  
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)  
**Elston, Hon Murray J.**, Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Financial Institutions (Bruce L)  
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)  
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)  
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)  
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)  
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)  
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)  
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)  
**Fontaine, Hon René**, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)  
**Fulton, Hon Ed**, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)  
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)  
**Grandmaître, Hon Bernard C.**, Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)  
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)  
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)  
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)  
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)  
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)  
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)  
**Hošek, Hon Chaviva**, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)  
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)  
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)  
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)  
 Kanter, Ron (St Andrew-St Patrick L)  
**Kerrio, Hon Vincent G.**, Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)  
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)  
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)  
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)  
**Kwinter, Hon Monte**, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)  
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)  
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)  
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)  
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 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)  
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**Mancini, Hon Remo**, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)  
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)  
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)  
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)  
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)  
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)  
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)  
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)  
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)  
**McLeod, Hon Lyn**, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)  
 Mclash, Frank (Kenora L)

- Miller, Gordon I.** (Norfolk L)  
**Morin, Gilles E.** (Carleton East L)  
**Morin-Strom, Karl E.** (Sault Ste Marie NDP)  
**Neumann, David E.** (Brantford L)  
**Nicholas, Cindy** (Scarborough Centre L)  
**Nixon, J. Bradford** (York Mills L)  
**Nixon, Hon Robert F.,** Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Brant-Haldimand L)  
**Oddie Munro, Hon Lily,** Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)  
**Offer, Steven** (Mississauga North L)  
**O'Neil, Hon Hugh P.,** Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)  
**O'Neill, Yvonne** (Ottawa-Rideau L)  
**Owen, Bruce** (Simcoe Centre L)  
**Patten, Hon Richard,** Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)  
**Pelissero, Harry E.** (Lincoln L)  
**Peterson, Hon David R.,** Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)  
**Philip, Ed** (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)  
**Phillips, Hon Gerry,** Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)  
**Poirier, Jean,** Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)  
**Pollock, Jim** (Hastings-Peterborough PC)  
**Polsinelli, Claudio** (Yorkview L)  
**Poole, Dianne** (Eglinton L)  
**Pope, Alan W.** (Cochrane South PC)  
**Pouliot, Gilles** (Lake Nipigon NDP)  
**Rae, Bob** (York South NDP)  
**Ramsay, Hon David,** Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)  
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**Wilson, Hon Mavis,** Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)  
**Wiseman, Douglas J.** (Lanark-Renfrew PC)  
**Wong, Hon Robert C.,** Minister of Energy (Fort York L)  
**Wrye, Hon William,** Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

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# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario



**Second Session, 34th Parliament**

Wednesday, 24 May 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, 24 May 1989

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### EDUCATION FINANCING

**Miss Martel:** On 10 April 1989, the Sudbury Board of Education released an information package highlighting concerns regarding the provincial funding of education. This action was prompted following the Ministry of Education announcements concerning the 1989 general legislative grant regulations. The increase in mill rates to be used by this and other boards to determine the local share of expenditures effectively transferred 10 per cent of the elementary panel costs and 20 per cent of the secondary panel costs to local taxpayers. The Sudbury board announced it had lost about \$3.7 million in grant moneys as a consequence.

While the decline in provincial funding means a school tax increase locally, the board is now having to cut programs as well. On 3 May, the board moved to terminate the family studies and design and technology programs in all elementary public schools. Both programs have been in existence for 35 years. This cost-cutting measure has dismayed the board, the teachers and the parents involved. However, the reality is that the board of education cannot continue to operate all it has in the past in the face of losses in provincial funding.

In the throne speech the government said it was determined to improve the quality of education for our children. We in Sudbury, facing school tax increases and termination of programs, find that hard to believe.

### HOSPITAL BEDS

**Mr Jackson:** I hold in my hands today a Liberal government news release issued three years ago by the then Minister of Health; it was prior to the last provincial election. In it, we read the promises made by the then minister, the member for Bruce (Mr Elston), in which he announced an expansion of approximately 4,400 hospital beds. These beds were to have been financed by an \$850-million capital allocation to

Ontario's hospitals—an allocation billed then as the largest in the history of Ontario.

Yesterday, however, the Premier's Council on Health Strategy released its report on health care in which it recommends that the government review whether or not it should go ahead with those beds as promised because "the implementation of the plan for hospitals announced in 1986 would have very negative long-term effects on the system."

We know from past experience that when this government says "review," it really means "cancel." Three years ago, it was announced that 3,000 of the 4,400 beds were for chronic care patients. This included 90 chronic care beds for Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in Burlington. It is now abundantly clear that the government intended all along to break this important election promise.

Is this the new health care strategy of the Premier (Mr Peterson) for Ontario patients in need of chronic care? The situation is so bad in the region of Halton that the only access to a chronic care bed is when someone dies.

### FOLK ARTS FESTIVAL

**Mr Dietsch:** I would like to take this opportunity to inform this House of a very special event that is presently taking place in my riding of St Catharines-Brock and area: that is, the 21st annual Folk Arts Festival. Every year, the Folk Arts Council of St Catharines, an association of ethnocultural groups, runs this very popular festival, which highlights the 35 nationalities that are represented in the city of St Catharines.

This year, the festival began on 19 May and will conclude on 4 June. Among a number of the major events that have taken place and will take place are the Queens' Ball, where 22 queens from different nationalities are crowned; various open houses which feature the foods, arts and entertainment of each nationality; a citizenship court and, last but not least, the grand parade with its international food booths.

The president of the Folk Arts Council, Sylvia Matthews, and her many committed volunteers have worked especially hard again this year to ensure that the festival is a tremendous success. It is important to note, however, that Sylvia and the

many others operate year-round offering services to new Canadians and recognizing and promoting the uniqueness of each individual nationality.

I hope my colleagues will join with me in congratulating each and every one involved in this festival, as well as taking the opportunity to come down to St Catharines and enjoy hospitality at its best.

#### ARMX '89

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** It is important that the people of Ontario know that their government was a major participant in the ARMX exhibition of armaments in Ottawa that has taken place in the last few days. This government not only spent \$20,000 to help exhibitors participate; it also spent \$60,000 on a directory of arms producers in Ontario and is planning to renew that.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr Kwinter) has an advisory group which happens to include a chief executive officer from a major producer of nuclear weapons component parts in this province, in spite of a resolution to which his government agreed: to make Ontario a nuclear-weapons-free zone. The minister is proud that this is the third-largest industry in Ontario; is happy that we have 80 per cent export of its goods; feels in fact that there is an infinite amount of export potential there that we should be involved with.

This government takes a Pontius Pilate approach to its responsibility and to whether or not we should be involved in the assistance of the export of arms, and says it is up to the federal government.

It is time that the people of Ontario and the government understood that there are major questions here as to whether or not we think we should be exporting arms anywhere in the world; whether we really think there is any kind of control that we can have over those arms once they are exported, and whether, in fact, taxpayers' dollars should be spent on assisting armaments producers who are bringing death and destruction in repressive regimes all over this world.

#### TOURISM

**Mr McLean:** The recent budget proves that this government is no friend of the Ontario tourist industry. Ontario's third-largest industry and major employer will see its competitive position eroded as the consequences of this budget, a budget which makes Ontario a more expensive tourist destination and which will reduce discre-

tionary income available for travel and vacations.

The payroll tax will have a particularly negative effect on this labour-intensive sector. Preliminary estimates indicate that the tax will increase industry costs by 75 per cent relative to what employers currently pay in Ontario health insurance plan benefits.

#### 1340

The commercial concentration levy is simply a thinly disguised room tax imposed on the industry in the greater Toronto area, a room tax which will limit the ability of the industry to attract convention business to the region. The two-cents-a-litre hike in the gasoline tax is another direct blow to the industry.

The budget gives a whole new meaning to the "Ontario-Incredible!" campaign. The government's tax policies with regard to the tourist industry are indeed incredible. It could not have done a worse job if it tried. The industry will be hard hit by and was bitterly disappointed with the budget. It has every right to be disappointed, because this government has failed to recognize the contribution which the industry makes to Ontario's economy.

#### COTTONWOOD MANSION

**Mr Miller:** On 13 May 1989, the dedication and grand opening of Selkirk's Cottonwood Mansion took place in my riding. Actually, it was in the riding of the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon), Brant-Haldimand, but it is on the town line.

The opening was attended by more than 1,000 people who toured the house and grounds on opening day. An additional 120 guests visited the mansion this past long weekend. This once-grand, 16-room home was built in 1865 by William Holmes on land inherited by his wife, Mary Hoover. Mary Hoover was the granddaughter of Jacob Huber/Hoover, one of the founding settlers in the Selkirk area in the 1790s. Cottonwood Mansion has been designated a heritage house and is undergoing major restoration by the Cottonwood Mansion Society, which has been approved as a registered charity.

Larry Hamilton, a Hoover descendant, is the resident host and owner of Cottonwood Mansion. Once restored, Cottonwood Mansion will be a living museum serving as a repository for regional historical artefacts. In addition, the house and grounds will be available to the community for meetings, weddings and other social events.

I would encourage all members of the Legislature to visit this historic site near Selkirk and to join me in voicing our appreciation to the community for its enthusiastic support of this project.

#### ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

**Mr Wildman:** The member for Brant-Haldimand (Mr R. F. Nixon) stated in his budget that "the farm property tax rebate program will be targeted to assist those engaged in full-time farming activities." This raises many questions. These questions must be clarified through consultation with the farm community only, not through unilateral action by the government.

Right now, applications for interim payments for 1989 would normally have been in the hands of farmers. They are not yet. Does this mean that the interim payment has been eliminated without notice? Has the government arrived at a definition of a full-time farmer?

The Ontario government should not introduce arbitrary changes in the farm tax program. The rebate program has provided significant tax relief to farmers. Farmers have a right to know what needs fixing. There must be consultation with farm organizations.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

##### HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** I am pleased to inform the House that my ministry is committing additional funding for the redevelopment of the Hospital for Sick Children.

As members know, Sick Children's is one of the most valued health care facilities in the province. Indeed, Sick Kids is recognized around the world for the expertise and innovation it brings to the care of children and adolescents.

Expansion of the hospital is under way to create much needed space. In addition to the Elizabeth McMaster Building, which houses research and administration, a new patient care centre is being built. The nine-storey patient tower, which will face Elizabeth Street between Elm and Gerrard streets, will include enhanced operating and emergency facilities, a bone marrow transplant unit and a burn unit. Construction will begin this summer, with completion scheduled for 1992.

To help finance the project, the Hospital for Sick Children Foundation agreed to provide \$55 million, with the remainder of the hospital's share to be raised by the community. This was an ambitious undertaking. It meant launching a concerted effort by the community, by the

hospital and the hundreds of volunteers working with hospital staff, corporations and private foundations to raise the needed funds.

The level of support for this project was impressive. Nearly \$50 million has been raised in what has become Canada's largest-ever hospital fund-raiser.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to announce that my ministry is increasing its share of funding for this capital project by \$32.4 million, to a total of \$104.9 million. In addition to the increased capital grant, the hospital will receive an increase in annual operating funds, of \$9.2 million, beginning in 1991. This will be used to support enhanced services in paediatric intensive care, bone marrow transplants, trauma, the burn unit and plant maintenance and operations.

With the addition of the new patient care centre, the Hospital for Sick Children will continue to provide invaluable service to our community. I am sure members will join me in offering congratulations to all of those who contributed to this important project.

##### FOSTER CARE

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** My announcement today has to deal with the foster care initiatives. When children cannot be cared for in their own homes, very often the best option is to place them in a home-like setting; that is, a foster home. The care given in Ontario foster homes is a critical resource for more than 5,000 children across this province.

Over the past few months, my ministry, through the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, has been consulting with foster parents and agencies throughout the province. Our discussions have confirmed that Ontario's foster care system is facing serious difficulties. The number of foster homes is declining and efforts to recruit new foster parents are falling short of their targets. Foster parents have told us that they need an increase in rates, more support and opportunities for training and that they would like a stronger voice in planning for their foster children.

This afternoon, I am announcing a new foster care initiative developed by my ministry and the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies. My ministry has allocated an additional \$6.7 million this year to strengthen foster care services. Municipal contributions of approximately \$1.4 million will commence on 1 January 1990, resulting in a total of more than \$8 million dedicated to assisting foster parents.

This funding process will allow time for municipalities to build the increase into their next fiscal budget. In all children's aid societies across the province, including the three native child welfare agencies, the minimum rate paid to any foster parent will be increased to \$14 per day per child, an amount that addresses the cost of room and board. This will benefit foster parents in 44 of 54 societies across Ontario for whom the minimum rate is now as low as \$7.45 per day. The cost of ensuring this increase to the new \$14 minimum is approximately \$2.5 million.

Expenses, such as clothing and spending allowances, which are reimbursed by children's aid societies, and subsidies provided to meet the special needs of some children are in addition to this minimum rate.

After providing funds to ensure the minimum rate, the regions will then allocate additional money to increase rates further and to improve support for foster parents. These allocations will address local needs and issues and will be based on the recommendations of regional committees, which will include senior staff of my ministry and of the children's aid societies' staffs.

In light of the projections made by my ministry and the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, it is anticipated that \$2.5 million will be allocated regionally to enhance rates beyond the new \$14 minimum. All rate enhancements will be retroactive to 1 April 1989.

Our consultations have determined that, important as it is to increase the rates provided to foster parents, it is equally important to strengthen the support provided to foster parents. Foster parents are being asked to take into their homes youngsters with multiple problems. Foster parents often care for children who have suffered physical or sexual abuse. Helping such youngsters requires special training, regular relief and the availability of foster care workers when difficulties do arise. As part of this initiative, \$2.5 million will be used to improve these supports for foster parents.

**1350**

Finally, OACAS, in partnership with my ministry, will provide training programs for foster parents and foster care workers. We will also allocate funds to projects which demonstrate innovative methods of increasing foster care placements in a child's home community or improving the quality of foster care services. A joint ministry/OACAS committee will review these proposals. Funding of more than \$500,000 has been earmarked for these training programs and demonstration projects.

It is our hope that the increased rates, improved supports, better training and creative approaches to foster care will attract new foster parents as well as help retain those already caring for our children.

At the same time as this initiative is going forward, my ministry is working with OACAS and foster parents on the residential family resources project to develop a long-range plan for the improvement of foster care services.

This project is identifying ways in which foster parents might be involved in providing a spectrum of services from prevention to long-term care. I am confident that by bringing together the collective resources of my ministry, children's aid societies and foster parents, we will build a stronger family care system seeking to provide the best possible care to children.

**The Speaker:** Responses? The member for Riverdale.

**Mr Reville:** Of course I want to respond to the statement made today by the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan), but I wonder if the Speaker would forgive me if I delayed that response so that I could acknowledge the heroism of the minister on the weekend in Huntsville. Now, back on the attack.

**Mr B. Rae:** Now if you could only do in a hospital what you did on the weekend.

**Mr Reville:** That is right, saving the people of Ontario two at a time.

## RESPONSES

### HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

**Mr Reville:** This is the fifth announcement in as many weeks by the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan), and should this session go on for a long time, as I suspect it might, there is no telling what the health care system might look like at the end of the session.

Michael Bennett of the Toronto Sun is now calling the minister the "windup" minister. I am not sure why he would say such a thing, but yesterday the minister was wound up and said all the capital projects would be on hold and today she has said, "But there is this one down the street, at the Hospital for Sick Children, that is going to go ahead." That is probably fairly confusing to the people of Ontario, but perhaps they are getting used to being confused by this government.

Clearly there are congratulations in order. Dr Reva Gerstein went out and raised, I think, \$55 million, and when Dr Gerstein sets her mind to a task, the task is done and double quick too. The

building is obviously going to be splendid. Eb Zeidler does good buildings, and we will see, obviously, one of the cynosures to all eyes of children's hospitals built here.

There are a lot of other problems in the health care system that the minister is not winding up and announcing, and I look forward to the weeks and months ahead to see if she can give us some announcements that will give us a little more hope.

### FOSTER CARE

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** I would like to respond to the statement on foster care. It is important to put this in a historical perspective. We have known for many years now that there is a problem in foster care. The problem often comes down to people wanting more money to provide the care, but the real issue is why and how we deal with foster parents as replacements for group professional care.

The changing role of foster parents is still not dealt with adequately in this announcement today. Although they are dealing with such issues as training, the fundamental questions have still not been addressed in terms of the future role of foster parenting.

The other thing that really needs to be done is to put this in a context of government policy. Latterly, we received an announcement about Transitions and government action to assist the poor, but we have to put this in contrast to what we have here today.

What is being said here today is that once a child becomes a ward of the state, the people who are looking after that child will receive a minimum of \$420 a month to look after that child. The average, in point of fact, in a place like Metropolitan Toronto, is closer to \$600 a month. This can go to the foster parent to look after that child, who might have been taken from a family benefits mother—for all sorts of reasons, the family broke down—who is given less than \$200 a month to raise that same child.

Even with the new initiatives announced by the government that will be coming in much later on around assistance of children who are poor, that family is still going to receive much less than a person who is dealing with that child as he becomes a ward of the state will get to look after the same child.

There is something just fundamentally wrong with that, if we do not recognize the incredible role that poverty plays in terms of children ending up as wards of the state and if we do not understand that if we gave the same kind of

money to those family benefits mothers and mothers on welfare to raise their children, we might not have to pay for those children who now get the basic rate under foster parenting to even be considered to be wards of the state at all.

People who need the care are all those exceptional children who need all the other kinds of assistance that the minister is talking about when he talks about training these people more. Kids who, just because they happen to be poor and their families cannot look after them, are still a large number of the foster kids in this province could be better looked after by their own natural parents, if we were just as generous with them as we are with the parents who look after them after the pieces of the family have fallen apart.

**Mrs Cunningham:** I would like to respond to the foster care initiative. I think this gives us an opportunity to again compliment the government on recognizing a wide range of services that are very much needed: the improved rates, the support that we have been asking for—I think we are a very effective opposition—and the training we have asked for, for such a very long period of time, for families in their homes. Families today raising their own children need many supports in the community and it is only fitting that we recognize the real needs of foster families.

We recognize that the government has built into its plan an opportunity for the foster parents and the agencies to work with the ministry around consultation and planning for the future. It gives us an opportunity today—and I am sure the minister would agree—to say hats off to foster parents across this province, while recognizing that \$400 a month at a minimum, and hopefully a whole lot more when we take a look at the real implications of this announcement today, is not a lot of money for the work they do. Really, it is the heart that is put into these children and the family that one can never put a price on. We talked about this last month.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the children's aid societies across this province who have made it their priority to recruit foster parents, not always successfully, but certainly, in London, very successfully. I think they went within their own resources to do that. I am sure the members would agree that we should be very proud of their efforts and very proud of the response of foster families across this province.

If anyone is bothering to watch us today, there is a real need for even more. I think this support service in our community is one, if possible, that we should be tapping into to the very greatest of

our abilities, because there is no place like home, especially a foster home for disabled children and disabled adults. We should be looking at this resource.

I look at this as just a beginning. I look at the rates as still being extremely minimal, but certainly a step in the right direction. I hope that the minister has built in, as in the previous announcements, an opportunity and a vehicle for evaluation of this new program.

1400

#### HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

**Mr Harris:** I want to comment briefly on the statement by the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan). First of all, to add our voice to the minister's when she said, at the end of her statement, "I am sure you will join me in offering congratulations to all those who contributed to this important project." Indeed, on behalf of my party, we would like to add our congratulations. The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto is a hospital that extends far beyond Toronto or Metropolitan Toronto. All of us in Ontario are very proud of the facility and, as members will know, it has Canadian, North American and indeed world significance as a leader in the health care field.

However, I do want to say that I am surprised that the Minister of Health, who stood in her place yesterday and indicated a freeze on \$850 million of capital funding that had been announced in 1986, had been blown about in campaign after campaign and talked about in community after community. Yesterday she rose and told us it was all on hold. Now she is starting to carry on with individual announcements, and of course it does confuse those who have projects that are on hold; communities like Nipissing, which has been waiting since 1984 for the government to follow through on commitments that were made.

I would also offer congratulations to the minister, though, for obviously not making this funding conditional on capitation or on doing things her way or one does not get the money. This is of course what she has told others in this province, including people in Nipissing, "Unless you play ball my way and unless everybody does things the way we want to do it, you can't have a new hospital."

I would also indicate to the minister that there is nothing in the announcement, and we have raised this on numerous occasions, on the waiting list for children's cardiac surgery. I would hope, although the minister is not paying

attention to me now, that this serious and chronic problem is addressed through this project as well as the critical shortage of nurses, regardless of capital facilities and program dollars, that is affecting program delivery in Sick Kids and other hospitals.

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

##### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Reville:** My questions are for the Solicitor General. This is the sixth day of our confusion about the actions of the minister in visiting a police station and then calling later. The minister has said that she does not feel that she made an error in judgement; she said to the press, "In retrospect, I don't think I would do anything differently."

That seems to indicate on more mature reflection that the minister still does not see the error in judgement. I guess we need to know from the minister, should the phone ring this Sunday morning, next Sunday morning or some Sunday morning in the future, would she in fact respond the way she did in April?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** The member for Riverdale asks a hypothetical question. As I have told members repeatedly on the circumstances of one incident, I got a call from someone who expressed great concern for somebody's safety. I did nothing improper in inquiring into and reassuring her on that matter. The same situation will never be replicated. It is a matter of judgement. If I said I would never, ever do anything, would the member opposite think I am a better person for such a statement?

**Mr Reville:** I do not think the question is whether or not the minister is a good person. I have no doubt about that. What I am worried about is that she is a good minister. Can she show the right kind of judgement that we need in the chief law enforcement officer of this province?

The minister says she cannot answer a hypothetical question, but I need to remind her of some things she said about her office in the past. On 11 January 1989, she said, "It would be most improper for me to rush the police." What was she doing on 9 April? On 3 January she said, "It would be most improper for me, as Solicitor General, to try to get particular information that is in a police investigation." What was she doing on 9 April? On 13 December 1988, she said of the Clare-Lewis task force that it was her "plan to remove any vestige of discrimination or perception thereof." What was she doing on 9 April?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I was doing none of the things referred to in those incidents and I would stand by all those statements at the time.

**Mr Reville:** No one wants to get this person qua person, that is for sure, but the minister continues to misunderstand the problem here. I have to ask again, does the minister not realize that by saying she is not here in her official capacity in fact nothing changes, that tomorrow morning she is the Solicitor General as long as she occupies that position?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I repeat that on that occasion I made absolutely no inquiry into the case, knew nothing about it and found out about it only later from the media. I simply inquired into the safety of the young man and left.

**Mr B. Rae:** My question is for the Premier. The last time he was in the House, on Thursday, in an answer to questions from my colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr Reville), the Premier said that he asked for a complete investigation of the situation. He went on to say that, "I had the investigation; it came back to me and said that there was nothing untoward, that there was no unreasonable influence exercised in this circumstance."

I wonder if the Premier can tell us the precise nature of the investigation which he asked for, the precise nature of the investigation which took place and why he remains unprepared to make that report public.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I asked for a police report of the matter, of all the circumstances surrounding the Solicitor General's attendance at that police detachment on the particular evening we are talking about, that is, the event and all the details attendant thereto.

It is a police report. As the member knows, it is not the tradition to make police reports public. There was one exception to that—my honourable friend will be aware of that—but in this particular case there are circumstances in there that relate to the charges that have been laid in this case. This matter is before the courts, and the advice I have is it is not appropriate to make that public.

**Mr B. Rae:** Since the Premier has referred to a particular police report, I can advise him that my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr Kormos), who will also have some questions this afternoon, went down to the Ontario Provincial Police this morning and had a lengthy interview with Detective-Inspector Howard Williams, who we understand was the individual who conducted the investigation.

Mr Williams has reported to my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold that, first of all, at no time did he personally interview the Solicitor General. I wonder if the Premier is aware of that.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I do not know who he interviewed or who he did not interview. I do not tell the police how to conduct their inquiries.

**Mr B. Rae:** The inspector also made it very clear that his sole responsibility was to inquire into the possibility of criminal wrongdoing by any of the officers involved or by the Solicitor General herself. His report had nothing whatever to do with the appropriateness or the reasonableness of the minister's judgement or discretion. That, I would say, is the exclusive responsibility of the Premier of this province.

I wonder why the Premier has such difficulty in making it clear precisely what standard he requires of his ministers, as previous premiers in this province did when he was sitting in this place and asked them to do it and when Mr Trudeau did so in the 1970s when there were phone calls from politicians to judges. Why does the Premier have such difficulty in establishing for himself the reasonableness of the minister's conduct—

**The Speaker:** Premier.

**Mr B. Rae:** —when he knows full well that the police report had absolutely nothing to do with the question of reasonableness by the minister?

**The Speaker:** Order. The question has been asked.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** The honourable member is quite right. I did not ask a police officer to make a judgement that only I can make in these circumstances. I asked the police to inquire as to the facts. I have the facts in front of me. As my honourable friend quite rightly said, I had to make a judgement with respect to the appropriateness. I discussed in the House the difficulty I had in making the judgement I did. I can understand others having a different opinion in the same circumstances, but I take full and complete responsibility for the judgement I have made, and the judgement I have made is that this does not warrant dismissal from the post.

1410

**Mr Brandt:** My question as well is to the Premier on the same subject. I wonder if the Premier could perhaps share information with this House in regard to how the incident in question was originally brought to his attention.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** One of my staff members told me shortly thereafter.

**Mr Brandt:** I have some difficulty, as does the Leader of the Opposition (Mr B. Rae), with

respect to the whole question of how the so-called investigation by the OPP was carried out.

I want to say that in the case of a former Solicitor General, when there was a matter of the boating incident which the Premier will very clearly recall, at that particular time it was considered inappropriate by the Attorney General (Mr Scott) to have the OPP carry out the investigation because of the very unique and very specific responsibilities the Solicitor General had with respect to that police department. The Attorney General, who took on that investigation, decided to call in the Metro Toronto Police to investigate the matter, which involved the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr Keyes).

I wonder why there is a double standard here. In one particular case it was inappropriate for the OPP to investigate their boss, and in this particular instance the Premier is indicating that a report completely satisfied him, a report drafted by the same OPP. Could he—

**The Speaker:** Thank you. The question has been asked.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** My honourable friend would agree that they are different circumstances from this point of view. In the first case my friend alludes to, there was a question of a charge being laid against a minister of the crown. In fact, charges were laid in that case. In this case, there was never any suggestion of any wrongdoing in a criminal sense by the Solicitor General. I wanted to determine the facts, because as my honourable friend knows, it was a political judgement that had to be made. There was never any question here about charging the Solicitor General.

**Mr Brandt:** My colleague the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr Runciman) has on numerous occasions indicated the appropriateness of an investigation being carried out by the boss of the very department for which that minister is responsible.

Also, we have had some difficulty on this side of the House understanding why this report, which the Premier has received for his eyes only, is not available to other members of the House. The Premier has answered this by very casually indicating that it is a police report. I wonder if he might respond to the House by indicating who besides himself has seen the particular report in question. Has he in fact received an outside legal opinion as to the appropriateness of the report, and was the final decision, as I understand it to be, made by him personally?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** The crown law officers looked at it from the point of view of criminality.

I am very much aware of the view of the member for Leeds-Grenville. I have had the benefit of that on many occasions and I take it seriously, as I always take his advice on these matters.

I say to my honourable friend, ultimately, as the first minister, I have to make these judgments, be accountable for them and take responsibility for them.

**Mr Brandt:** I want to remind the Premier of a disagreement in position with regard to how he views the matter now that he has seen this report, and how the Solicitor General sees the matter. The Premier has been quoted as saying, "I have frankly agonized over this question. It is not an easy one for me. Maybe in retrospect, she'd do something else," meaning the Solicitor General. Then, as has already been pointed out, the Solicitor General is quoted as saying, "In retrospect, I don't think I'd do anything differently." On the one hand, the Premier is saying the Solicitor General should have done something differently, and on the other hand, the Solicitor General is saying she acted quite appropriately.

I wonder if the Premier, who was concerned enough to have this matter reviewed by the OPP, recognizing that he agonized over the decision, feels that it is appropriate now for the Solicitor General to indicate that she has not done anything inappropriate by visiting that particular OPP station on that evening.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I think reasonable people can certainly understand the circumstances at hand here. I understand my honourable friend having a difference of opinion. Perhaps in a similar situation he would have done something differently. Had he been the Solicitor General and been phoned in similar circumstances, he may have reacted the same way, he may not have. We can always sit here with the benefit of hindsight and say "What if?" this or that, and I understand that.

Obviously, nobody likes to create an unnecessary problem. It is obvious that the member would like to make this into as big an incident as he possibly can, and I understand that as well. I understand the democratic process. But I say to my honourable friend that I think reasonable people could have different points of view on this. No decision I make is completely 100 per cent one way or the other. I did agonize on this, I said, and I have come to the conclusion, the bottom line, that the minister does not warrant dismissal over this incident.

**Mr Brandt:** The Premier can perhaps attempt to trivialize this incident to the extent that he may want to, but I would remind him that in the case of the former Solicitor General, the member for Kingston and The Islands, and in the case of the member for London South (Mrs Smith), the current Solicitor General, both investigations were criminal investigations. That has been very clearly pointed out to the Premier.

I would suggest that the visit by the Solicitor General would be absolutely no different, if I may draw an analogy for the Premier, than the chief of police of the Metropolitan Toronto force walking into the station late at night in his civilian clothes and inquiring of a constable why they had arrested the son of a friend of his. It is exactly the same kind of situation, and the Premier surely would agree that is inappropriate. Is anything less than appropriate now than to ask for the Solicitor General's resignation?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I have repeatedly said that I did not inquire why or anything about their actions.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** To assist my honourable friend, I do not think anybody is trivializing this at all. I think my friend would like to oversimplify this to some extent, and I think the facts are all there. He can draw his own conclusion on it. I respect his right to draw his own conclusion, but the analogy he used I think is quite inappropriate, because it does not conform to the facts and the circumstances.

**Mr Brandt:** The analogy is totally appropriate, and I might add that the Solicitor General herself has already admitted that she inquired as to the health of the individual in question. Her very presence is an intimidation of the police in that particular instance.

I want to read to the Premier a letter from the former minister of that same department, George Kerr, who resigned in 1979 after calling an assistant crown attorney on behalf of a constituent:

"I am wholly conscious of the fact that there can be no suggestion of impropriety on my part that could in any way reflect upon the administration of justice and law enforcement. Under the circumstances, therefore I feel I have no alternative at this time but to submit my resignation."

That is the standard we have been accustomed to in this House. I want the Premier to think over very carefully his actions, because by condoning the actions of the Solicitor General he is agreeing

to a new standard for ministers in his government, a standard I think is unacceptable to the majority of Ontarians. Will he not protect the integrity of the justice system in Ontario, as has been done in the past, and ask—

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** My honourable friend has drawn a number of parallels in his questions, and I say as respectfully as I can that I do not think any of them are appropriate in the circumstances. That is the judgement I ultimately have to make. He obviously will make another judgement in a partisan way with respect to his responsibilities, and I understand that. But I have to deal with the facts as I see them and obviously make a judgement I can feel comfortable about and support. So I say to my honourable friend that although I wish this whole incident did not happen, I do not think it is appropriate to justify dismissal in the circumstances. That is the decision I have had to make.

**Mr Kormos:** I have a question for the Premier. Much justification has been made of the Solicitor General's conduct by virtue of explaining that there was an allegation that the parents were out of town and that a young person had been beaten by the police. Those are the words of the Premier in terms of explaining or helping to explain the Solicitor General's conduct. But it remains that the OPP investigation reveals that the father arrived at the detachment at 1:20 am, was permitted an opportunity to speak with his son, left the detachment, and the Solicitor General, upon arriving, met the father outside the police detachment in the parking lot.

1420

Surely at that point she is aware that the parents are not out of town. She is aware indeed, because the father had just seen his son, that he was not being abused. How can she then justify carrying on at that point, no longer under any misapprehension, and going into that police station and spending some five to 10 minutes there concerning herself with this matter?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** The member is quite right, and as I understand the facts, when she was satisfied that she had been misled, she withdrew.

**Mr Kormos:** Not only did she not withdraw, she carried on into the police station, spent some five to 10 minutes there before she left at 1:50 am and then, notwithstanding that, the Solicitor General called the police station again, that time at 3:51 am, indicating that there were further allegations of abuse.

Mind you, once again, she was not acting in an official position. That is tantamount to prefacing a comment by saying "Nothing personal." The fact is she is the Solicitor General one way or another. How can that be justified under the circumstances? There is no withdrawal; there is no misapprehension at that point. How can it be justified?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** As far as I know, there was no question there.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. New question.

**Mr Runciman:** My question is to the Premier as well. The Premier has said that the Solicitor General's misconduct was bad enough that he agonized over asking for her resignation, yet at the same time he failed to insist that a full report of the incident be made public as soon as possible, although that was exactly what he did in the case of the member for Kingston and The Islands.

The Premier himself thereby acquiesced in a coverup. Is the Premier now prepared to correct his own error of judgement and release a full report of this incident with appropriate deletions of the names of people who are now before the courts?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** It is a serious matter, but I do object to the excessive and outrageous language the honourable member employs in this circumstance. Let me pass over that for a moment and say that it is a police report. I have explained this, I think, to his interim leader when he asked me the same question. It is a police report that deals with a particular set of circumstances in which charges have been laid, not against the Solicitor General but against another person. The advice I have in the matter is that it would be prejudicial with respect to a criminal proceeding that is being undertaken.

**Mr Runciman:** In the 4 December 1986 issue of Hansard, the Premier is quoted as saying in respect to the Ken Keyes incident, "The Attorney General decided to make that police report public, even though that is not the custom, because of the particularly sensitive nature of this matter and given the fact that it was the Solicitor General who was involved."

We will hark back to yesterday, and again from Instant Hansard, the Solicitor General responding to my question: "The report was ordered by the Premier to be doubly certain for political reasons." Is the Solicitor General perhaps inadvertently explaining the real reason why the Premier is reluctant, even adamant, to

release this document to the House and to the public—simply because of political reasons, as the Solicitor General suggests?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I think there is a difference between that and the Keyes case. That was one exception, to the best of my memory, of when a police report was made public, but there is quite a distinct difference here. In that case, the Solicitor General was the accused and the accused agreed to have the report released. In this case, the Solicitor General is not the accused, someone else is the accused, so the matter is before the courts.

I think my honourable friend, on taking legal advice from one of his colleagues in front of him, would agree that is the appropriate response in the circumstance. I am sure the member for Cochrane South (Mr Pope), as a former Attorney General, would agree with that approach.

#### WASTE MANAGEMENT

**Mrs Stoner:** My question is to the Minister of the Environment and is about the provincial directions in waste management, specifically in waste reduction. The minister knows that landfill is a major issue in my riding and that my community is leading the way in recycling in Ontario. My constituents would like to see an expansion of the existing recycling programs. How is the minister responding?

**Hon Mr Bradley:** I think the member has certainly identified what has to be the wave of the future in terms of waste management when she talks about the reduction of the amount of material that would normally go into a landfill or an incinerator. It is our idea and plan, to be supplemented by a big investment of government's money in this area as well as from the private sector, to expand rather considerably the blue box program that we have in the province now to include a number of other materials which, up to the recent past, have not been able to be recycled and to extend that right across Ontario.

We also—and we have some of this happening at the present time—are expanding our activities in Ontario, through the municipalities, into apartment dwellings, which in the past was not considered to be appropriate by some people. I always thought they would be an appropriate place to expand it. We expect the private sector to develop 4R programs which, for instance, would affect—and again that would be with provincial help—office towers and would reduce the tons of fine paper that have been recycled over the years. In addition to that, construction companies will

be recycling their materials, and food wholesalers and retailers. There are a number of issues. I could go on, but in the sense of time I should limit my remarks.

**Mrs Stoner:** Composting has the potential of reducing our waste stream significantly, and communities such as Seattle are doing so in their programs. What are we doing to encourage the composting of both kitchen and garden wastes.

**Hon Mr Bradley:** There is a considerable program being initiated in Ontario. Once again, there are a number of other jurisdictions looking at what we are doing in this direction. The member for Durham West has long been an advocate of composting and of other measures of reducing the material that would normally go into landfill sites. In fact, the province will be contributing an estimated \$50 million for the expansion of this program.

It would work in two different ways. In some communities there would be a distribution of individual composters which would allow people, on a personal basis, to compost those items appropriate for that within their own household or within their own business. Second, other communities have selected the opportunity to use composters on a municipal-wide basis to ensure that material could be collected and wet and dry materials separated and composted. We have already had examples of leaves that used to be put in landfills being composted.

We see this as a major thrust forward. We think it will have a remarkable effect on the reduction of materials normally going to landfills, and I know that communities across this province will be supporting it very strongly.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr B. Rae:** I have a question of the Premier. The Premier has said it is his information or understanding that the Solicitor General (Mrs Smith) withdrew as soon as she realized that she had been misled. I wonder how the Premier can possibly continue to say that when the facts are that the Solicitor General spoke to Mr Whalen's father in the parking lot and was approached by Constable Foley, who was surprised to see the Solicitor General.

He approached her and she indicated to the officers that she was there in response to a call from the daughter alleging abuse to herself and her brother. She then went into the detachment. She was not accompanied by the father and was told specifically by the police that the father had just been there. She continued to stay there and

spoke to the police, according to their information, for some five to 10 minutes.

I wonder if the Premier can tell us how this and the subsequent phone call are compatible with his statement in this House that the Solicitor General withdrew from any involvement in the case as soon as she realized she was there under false circumstances.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** There is an allegation that the parents were out of town and that the brother was being physically abused by the police. So she satisfied herself that those charges were not valid and left. There was no discussion about charges being laid or anything else, to the best of my knowledge.

**Mr Brandt:** And then called back.

1430

**Mr B. Rae:** And then she phoned back two hours later. On 7 September 1978, after it was first revealed that Mr Kerr had phoned an assistant crown attorney, the then Premier said that he was satisfied that Mr Kerr acted from no motive other than a concern for his constituent's problems.

The Premier will recall that the first instinct of the Premier at that time was not to insist on the resignation of Mr Kerr. But he did make this statement: "Such a call should not have been made, and Mr Kerr does not dispute that fundamental fact. Propriety, in the conduct of one's affairs at all times, must be characteristic of the actions of any member of cabinet and must be so perceived by the public. That this requirement was not displayed, in this instance, is clear."

I want to ask the Premier, why is he incapable of making a similar statement with regard to the conduct of his Solicitor General?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** As the honourable member knows, I think I have discussed this in a full and fair way, with my own views on the subject as well as the facts as I know them, but my honourable friend has not been here listening to the entire matter. I think we have discussed that as clearly as we possibly can, laid the dilemma before the members of the House, and a decision has been made.

**Mr Runciman:** My question is to the Premier, as well, on the same issue. I wonder if the Premier would advise the House if he or any member of his staff has discussed this issue, this controversy if we will, with Don Smith.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Not as far as I know.

**Mr Runciman:** We would certainly appreciate the Premier's following up on that and

advising us, at some point in the not-too-distant future, if indeed it has occurred.

The Solicitor General (Mrs Smith) was quoted, in the 20 May issue of the *London Free Press*, in respect to this matter, "In retrospect, I don't think I'd do anything differently." Has the Premier discussed this matter with his Solicitor General?

He indicated that he was in extreme discomfort in respect to this whole matter. I wonder if he has discussed it with her and if he has advised her in respect to her future actions. Does he concur with what she is suggesting in the *London Free Press*, "In retrospect, I don't think I'd do anything differently"?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I have discussed it with her at great length; there is no question about it. Obviously, it is a concern to her. It is a concern to me. We have shared our views in this House with members in as forthright a way as we possibly can.

#### ELECTRIC POWER

**Mr Tatham:** My question is for the Minister of Energy. What is the status of negotiations between TransCanada, ConGas and Ontario Hydro?

**Hon Mr Wong:** Yesterday, I met with the president of Ontario Hydro. I was pleased to raise this matter with the president and can assure the honourable member that negotiations concerning the installation of a gas-fired power-generating station facility at Hearn continues to be ongoing.

**Mr Tatham:** Is Ontario Hydro planning to use more natural gas for future power generation?

**Hon Mr Wong:** I thank the honourable member for his questions. I think that even before the Power Corporation Act amendments have been passed, Ontario Hydro is showing a responsiveness and a sensitivity to what the people, industries and other users of electricity within this province want. People in this province and the industries want a reliable supply of electricity. They want low-cost electricity and they want our environment to be protected as much as possible when we are generating electricity. One advantage of natural gas, of course, is that it is less environmentally harmful than coal-burning fossil-fuel plants.

In conclusion, let me say that the natural gas option is one that Hydro is certainly considering in its plans for development of the system. It will give the electricity system in Ontario diversification and flexibility, so we hope that we will see more use of natural gas in the future.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Kormos:** The Premier tells us that he is going to keep secret the report prepared by the Ontario Provincial Police. It remains that this report does not concern itself with the charges laid against the young people in Lucan, but the report prepared out of Toronto concerns itself with the attendance of the Solicitor General at the police station and the subsequent contact by the Solicitor General with the police.

Is not the real reason that the Premier will not release that report because it chronicles and documents very precisely the inappropriateness of the Solicitor General's behaviour; the fact that she did not withdraw when she became aware that the parents were there and that there was no harm done to anybody who had been arrested that evening? Is that not the real reason we are not being allowed to see that secret report?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** My honourable friend is absolutely wrong and is taking a very different line than his leader takes in asking questions. The facts were laid forward in that.

Judgements were not made about the appropriateness of that particular set of behaviours. Those are judgements for me to make, as the honourable member's leader asked in questions some time ago. It laid out the facts. It did not lay out any conclusions with respect to the appropriateness of it.

**Mr Kormos:** All the more reason that the report should not be secret. We should be allowed to see it and see exactly what the Solicitor General did. It remains that, using the police in this way, using the Ontario Provincial Police like a private or secret government police, preparing secret reports for the Premier's eyes only, secret reports that the rest of this Legislature is not entitled to look at, is that not an abuse of the OPP? Does that not put the OPP into a compromised and totally unacceptable position?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I believe my honourable friend is a lawyer, although it would be hard to discern from the question he just asked. He understands that police reports are not made public. Surely, he has been in criminal court enough in his life to understand that. My honourable friend's use of innuendo and value-laden words is, frankly for a lawyer, not appropriate.

**Mr Brandt:** Again, with respect to the same issue, since the Premier has indicated that the Solicitor General did not in fact have any influence over any of the proceedings that

occurred at the station that particular evening, could he perhaps, as a result of his eyes having seen the police report, indicate why it was necessary for the Solicitor General, after having visited that location that evening, to make the subsequent phone call that occurred? Why was the follow-up phone call necessary?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Charges were laid and I think that she wanted to make sure that there was no misunderstanding about why she went there. It was in a humanitarian capacity, to respond to a call in the middle of the night and I think that was the reason for it.

**Mr Brandt:** I am having increasing difficulty with the way in which the Premier is responding to these questions. It is not easy for those of us in opposition, as I am sure it is not easy for him. The fact of the matter is that the Premier has in fact established his defence on the basis that the Solicitor General perhaps did not act according to how the Premier wished she had acted, but did nothing inappropriate.

I ask the Premier again, if in fact the Solicitor General was not, even in some modest way, interfering with the way in which justice was being carried out that evening, why was the subsequent phone call necessary?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** For the reasons I have expressed and the facts as I have them. The question is, did she interfere in the carriage of justice, and the answer in my judgement is no. Charges were laid in the circumstances and those are the facts. They are there for all to see.

#### OTTAWA AREA HOSPITALS

**Mr Daigeler:** My question is to the Minister of Health. Last week, the Ottawa area members met with the administrators of our hospitals. One of the questions raised was the decrease in revenue for Quebec patients who are no longer treated at Ottawa area hospitals. As the minister probably knows, the Quebec side has now moved ahead with several hospital constructions and they are serving the Quebec residents on that side of the river. However, this means that there is a revenue loss for the Ottawa area hospitals.

I understand that the administrators have recommended that the ministry undertake to negotiate, with each Ottawa hospital, a mutually acceptable base, from which point that institution's Quebec revenue budget will be rolled into the budget base of the Ministry of Health.

I am wondering whether the minister is prepared to follow through with this recommendation?

1440

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** I want to thank the member for the question, which is of significant importance to the Ottawa area hospitals.

When the Ottawa hospital system was originally built there was in fact significant capacity arranged in that area to meet the needs of Quebec residents who would be coming to Ontario for services. Over the course of time, that has fluctuated and created problems in planning for the Ottawa area hospitals.

I want to tell the member that I visited Ottawa, and we have made a commitment to attempt to work co-operatively with the hospitals to resolve what has been a difficult issue. As well, it is very important that we review the capacity requirements and needs of the Ottawa area in light of the changing relationship with Quebec and the needs of the people of Ottawa as they relate to the Quebec revenue issue.

**Mr Daigeler:** I appreciate the minister's willingness to work with the hospitals to look at this serious situation. I understand there have been negotiations with the Ministry of Health already. Could she give us some indication as to what time frame she is looking at, within which this important question might be settled?

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** In the past, adjustments have been made on an annual basis to the hospitals for those costs which could be directly related to loss of Quebec revenue. This is a situation which is not unique to Ottawa; it implies a relationship between Ontario and Quebec, and in fact has implications on the Manitoba border as well.

I can tell the member of our commitment to wanting to resolve this in a manner which is considered fair and equitable, and that we are working co-operatively with the hospitals to develop an approach that will resolve an issue which has been very difficult for the hospitals in the Ottawa area particularly, to be able to encourage the kind of good planning that we all know is necessary if we are going to be able to deliver the services to our communities that they really need in the future.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr B. Rae:** I want to go back to the Premier again. He has already stated that he had received a criminal investigation report from the Ontario Provincial Police with regard to the conduct of the Solicitor General, which dealt in some detail with the question of criminality. I hope the Premier would not be saying that one has to be

proven a criminal before one's conduct would be deemed inappropriate.

The question that I have for the Premier is this: has he had any conversations with senior officers of the OPP with regard, not to the criminality of the Solicitor General's conduct, but to the appropriateness of her conduct?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** The answer is no.

**Mr B. Rae:** The obvious question would be, why the hell not? The Premier told us on Thursday that the police report said there was nothing "untoward," but in fact the police report did not say what the Premier told us it said back on Thursday. I would like to ask the Premier if he could document for us very specifically what conversations he has had with the Solicitor General with regard to the appropriateness of her conduct; and precisely what standard and what message he is sending to her and to other members of his cabinet with regard to their contact with law officers of the crown, as well as with senior police officers and with police officials who are dealing in their day-to-day jobs with the citizens of this province.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Obviously, if the Solicitor General or any member of the cabinet does anything that in any way influences untowardly the course of justice or the laying of a charge, that very clearly would be inappropriate.

In the circumstances, and the facts brought forward in the report, that was not the case and in fact charges were laid. That was part of the report coming back to me. I made my judgement based on those facts.

As the member said, the function of the police report was to give me the facts so I could make judgements based on those. I did that and I thought that was appropriate in the circumstances.

**Mr Runciman:** To the Premier again with respect to the Solicitor General's misconduct. The sad fact of the situation is that in this case the Premier has set aside all his own past statements and policies as well as the public good, because of political debts. If Ken Keyes's name were Ken Smith, he would still be Solicitor General.

Can the Premier tell us how many other ministers are exempt from the general rules of conduct for cabinet ministers?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I am trying to be as forthcoming as I can, but I do not think that the question merits a response.

**Mr Runciman:** That holier-than-thou reaction was really, "The answer is there is no

answer." The Premier does not have an adequate answer for this House.

**The Speaker:** And you have a supplementary?

**Mr Runciman:** Earlier the Premier was asked about how he knew about this incident. He mentioned a member of staff. I wonder if he could advise us specifically how this member of staff learned about the incident and under what authority he himself personally ordered a police investigation?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** It was done through the Deputy Solicitor General.

#### NIAGARA DETENTION CENTRE

**Mr Pelissero:** I have a question to the Minister of Correctional Services. Recently the minister was down in the Niagara Peninsula opening an addition to the Niagara Detention Centre and received some criticism with respect to the facility only being readily accessible to young male offenders. I was wondering if the minister would wish to comment on that.

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** It was a pleasure to be down in Welland-Thorold and welcome the member there when we opened this facility, the addition to the Niagara Detention Centre for young offenders.

The member is quite right. With the counsel we had and the transportation needs of the regional police to transport young offenders to the Hamilton-Wentworth facility, we felt that it would be most appropriate just to build a facility for male young offenders at that time.

**Mr Pelissero:** I was wondering if the minister has any plans to correct this situation in the future should the need arise.

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** I would like to assure the member that I will be continually monitoring the count situation at that facility. If need warrants, we could make plans in the future for expansion.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr B. Rae:** I want to go back to the Premier, because, frankly—like, I am sure, many other Ontario citizens—I remain entirely unclear as to what this Premier's standards of conduct are with regard to a senior law officer of the crown, in this case the Solicitor General, in terms of what contact with police is acceptable, what contact with other law officers is acceptable and what is appropriate.

I do not know now, and I do not think the people of this province know, what the standard

of the Premier of Ontario is. He has said if somebody commits a crime, that is to say is accused of or alleged to be interfering with the course of justice, then that would be unacceptable. I would hope that it would be unacceptable; you would be charged by the police. It would be hard to know how you could carry on as Solicitor General.

What I want to ask the Premier is this: Short of committing a crime, what precisely is his standard? What is the Solicitor General supposed to do next weekend when she gets the phone calls from all those people who now have her phone number? What is she expected to do with regard to problems that she says constituents are facing with the police? Is she supposed to go down to the police station next week? Yes or no?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Obviously, no one can interfere personally in the administration of justice with respect to the laying of charges or bring any influence to bear one way or the other. In other words, she cannot say, "I want charges laid against this person" or say "I don't want charges laid against this person."

**Mr B. Rae:** That is criminal.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Well, no. With great respect, there is nothing criminal about that. I do not think my honourable friend is right, but she cannot have any influence on that and neither can anyone else—neither should he or me or anyone else—and clearly, that has got to be a rule that has got to be sacrosanct.

**Mr B. Rae:** Back in 1976, 12 March, to be precise, the Prime Minister of Canada was faced with a problem. It was alleged in a newspaper that a number of ministers of his cabinet had in fact been having conversations with judges. There was a special inquiry held by the Chief Justice of Quebec, Mr Deschênes, which found that in fact there was no criminal wrongdoing, that in fact there was no attempt to obstruct or interfere with the course of justice, but there was another question for the Prime Minister of Canada and that was the appropriateness, the judgement of ministers in dealing, in this case, with judges.

At that time the Prime Minister of Canada made a special statement in the House of Commons. He laid down a standard which made it clear there could be no contact whatsoever between individual ministers and members of the judiciary—

**The Speaker:** You have a question?

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**Mr B. Rae:** —and subsequently a member of the cabinet broke that rule and was asked for his resignation, and he resigned.

I want to ask the Premier: Why does he have such difficulty in setting out, with clarity, standards which have been laid down by the Prime Minister of Canada and Premier Davis with regard to the appropriateness of what the Solicitor General did on that Saturday night at one o'clock and at four o'clock in the morning?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** The member brings in an analogy about bringing influence to bear on a crown attorney and/or a judge, and I say to my honourable friend, I think those are quite different circumstances. I have said to him as clearly as I possibly can what I think the standards have to be here and I try to be as forthcoming as I can in responding to his question.

**Mr Brandt:** Again, I would like to advise the Premier, as he is well aware, that the first public information of this particular incident came to our attention as a result of a story that appeared in the newspaper. I wonder if the Premier could share with us who in fact informed his government, either the assistant deputy minister, his office or whoever, that there was a visit by the Solicitor General to the Lucan detachment.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I was told by my staff. I am not exactly sure who called them. I think it was the Solicitor General and/or her staff.

**Mr Brandt:** Surely, when we cannot get at the police report, which the Premier indicates is not available for us to observe for reasons that he has outlined, and when we are in fact attempting to get to the bottom of the story as to how it unfolded, it would be of some interest to determine who thought the incident was serious enough to advise the government, either the Solicitor General's office or the Office of the Premier, that an incident had occurred in Lucan.

The simple question I have, which I think deserves a response, is: Who made the contact indicating that there was a problem there? Was it an OPP officer, some government member, or who?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** The Deputy Solicitor General, who told my staff, who told me.

#### EDUCATION FINANCING

**Mr Black:** My question is for the Minister of Education. In the recent budget speech, there were some announcements related to the pooling of commercial and industrial assessment and the

impact that would have on education financing across the province.

I know that was a recommendation of the Macdonald Commission on the Financing of Elementary and Secondary Education in this province and I know that the minister and his staff have been looking at those recommendations at some length, over some considerable period of time.

I wonder if the minister could share with the House some of the options that were discussed and some of the alternatives that he examined before arriving at the particular model that he did arrive at.

**Hon Mr Ward:** The member is correct that the Macdonald commission did make a recommendation for the province-wide pooling of commercial and industrial assessment.

I want to stress to the member that the model we chose and the plan we will be utilizing is a regional one in that it will not see revenue from assessment within a given municipality shift outside the boundaries of that municipality by providing access to commercial and industrial assessment of publicly traded corporations. There will of course be some shift in revenues. This, however, is to be offset by increases in the grant ceilings.

One of the other options that was available to us was a province-wide shift which would have involved amounts in excess of \$1 billion. A further option was the utilization of access to this revenue only on the basis of growth, in other words, just as new commercial and industrial assessment came on.

The latter option was rejected because it would have taken many, many years to achieve any sort of equity. The first option was not acceptable because of the size of the shifts involved and the localized impacts in some communities and also the fact that there would be a disincentive to regional economic development programs undertaken in many municipalities to attract business and industry.

**Mr Black:** I guess I am somewhat puzzled by what has taken place here and I wonder if the minister could share with me some further information that might help me understand the situation.

I believe I am right in saying that the minister rejected one of the alternatives he was looking at, which was a full pooling of commercial-industrial assessment across the province. He also gave an indication following the budget speech that no public school board would suffer

any loss of revenues as a result of this fairly significant change that has taken place.

I wonder if the minister could elaborate a little on that for the benefit of all members of this House, regardless of the parts of the province they may represent. Could the minister share with us exactly what he meant by that statement?

**The Speaker:** I believe the question has been asked.

**Hon Mr Ward:** As a matter of fact, the question was so long I forgot what it was. But let me begin by saying that there are two initiatives involved here. One, of course, is the fact that publicly traded corporations will now be divided on the basis of the ratio of residential assessment in a given community, as opposed to the Treasury taking all of that revenue. The second major initiative is an extraordinary increase in grant ceilings over the phase-in period. The net result is that no public board will lose revenue as a result of this.

I just happen to have at my fingertips the figures for Muskoka, which may help the member somewhat. Based on projections utilizing the 1987 assessment rolls, bearing in mind that those are the most current data available, there would be a revenue loss as a result of access to the commercial-industrial assessment of about \$32,000. The grant ceilings should provide—

**The Speaker:** Thank you. You may sit down.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Kormos:** I have a question of the Premier. The Ontario Provincial Police obviously have great concern because he tells us now that the original complaint about the conduct of the Solicitor General (Mrs Smith) is directed to the ministry from the OPP. People in the community have great concern because they see an interference here with police work, particularly when it was not a matter of making a phone call at 1:40 or 1:45 in the morning, but was a matter of driving to the OPP detachment.

It was not a matter of stopping short when she realized that the father was there, that he had spoken with his son and that there clearly could be no difficulties that could have arisen. Why is it that this sensation of impropriety exists across the province, yet the Premier persists in defending the conduct of the Solicitor General when it was so clearly improper?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** It was not a complaint coming from the OPP, it was just regular information that was passed on to my office, as is normal.

Obviously, it could be a very sensitive matter and obviously it is. I say to my friend that I think many people, in looking at the circumstances in a similar situation, would say, "Now look, here was a phone call in the middle of the night, certain allegations were made and a response was taken by the Solicitor General." They would not judge it nearly as harshly as the member would, and they might, frankly, interpret the member's motive as being political when he stands up in this House and continues to just be critical.

**Mr Kormos:** Exactly what did the Solicitor General have in mind when she went to the police detachment? She is not a lawyer and she did not concern herself with any apparent urgency by making a telephone call. She persisted in going into that police station, notwithstanding that she knew that the boy's father had been there and that he had visited with his son.

The police were dealing with a particularly unruly accused. His conduct resulted in charges; there were two counts of mischief being laid as a result of the young man's conduct in the police station. His own father did not want to take him home but rather told the police, "Keep him there until late in the morning and I'll come back for him then."

Do the police not have a hard enough job to do without the Solicitor General getting involved in what is very difficult work on their part?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I think it just shows my honourable friend that justice works in this province, and he would support that.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

1500

**Mr Runciman:** My question is to the Premier on the same issue. One of the most serious things wrong with what the Solicitor General did that night was to leave the impression that she was trying to influence members of the OPP and how they handled a particular case. I think the Toronto Star story today highlights that. It is essential that there be and be seen to be equal justice for all in this province.

Can the Premier give us a categorical assurance that, as far as he knows, no OPP officer has indicated any feeling of intimidation or pressure as a result of this incident? If he cannot give this assurance, will he tell the House who felt intimidated or pressured and why?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I am not aware of anyone who felt intimidated, because obviously charges were laid in the circumstances.

**Mr Runciman:** I will go back to an area that the Premier avoided answering earlier, and that is with respect to a comment the Solicitor General made in this House yesterday.

**The Speaker:** Actually, the question is supposed to come out of the response.

**Mr Runciman:** It is a supplementary. It is dealing with the same issue. The Solicitor General, in respect of the police report, indicated that it was authorized by the Premier and carried out for political reasons. Does the Premier agree with that assessment?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** What I wanted to do was to clearly determine, in an independent way, the facts of the situation. Some have suggested that I should have talked to the OPP to get advice on the matter, but I did not. I got it all on paper, the facts of the situation. Then I had to make judgements with respect to the appropriateness.

I told the member how I agonized about that. I told him how I can understand a human response of the Solicitor General, a humanitarian one, if you will. I can understand as well other people having a different view of the situation. Ultimately, the judgement I had to make was whether this warrants dismissal from the executive council. That was the judgement.

The member for Leeds-Grenville may have taken a different view, my friends opposite may have taken a different view, but I took the view that it was not serious enough in the circumstances, because justice did work. Justice operated and charges were laid in the circumstances, and that is now before the courts. That is the course of action I chose.

## PETITIONS

### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mrs Fawcett:** "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to 31 May 1982 have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"The proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

I have signed the petition.

## HOME CARE

**Mr McCague:** "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We support the expansion of home care and visiting nurses services as the most cost-efficient mode of health care delivery. We therefore want our government to adequately fund the Victorian Order of Nurses."

I have signed this.

## TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr M. C. Ray:** I have two petitions. The first is to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to 31 May 1982 have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"The proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable system."

I have signed this petition.

## ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH

**Mr M. C. Ray:** I have a second petition to the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Each year, thousands of animals suffer and die slow, painful deaths in laboratory tests of cosmetics and household products.

"These tests are cruel and not required by any provincial or federal law.

"Safe alternative methods of testing such products do exist; methods that do not involve the use of animals, but do provide reliable results.

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario to pass into law a bill prohibiting the use of animals in cosmetic and product testing."

I have also signed that one.

## HOME CARE

**Mr Black:** I have a petition signed by 77 residents of Simcoe county, addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We support the expansion of home care and visiting nurses services as the most cost-efficient mode of health care delivery. We therefore want our government to adequately fund the Victorian Order of Nurses."

I have signed my name to this petition.

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Mr Wiseman:** I have a petition from 444 people who work in my riding, which reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We care about the injured workers of Ontario and object to Bill 162, because the proposed changes will take payments away from injured workers who the minister feels have been paid too much or too long. Only strong reinstatement rights, real retraining provisions and pension reform, not pension removal, will improve the workers' compensation system."

I have signed this too.

## NATUROPATHY

**Ms Bryden:** I have a petition on the subject of naturopathy addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is my constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of my preference; and

"Whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

This petition is signed by 20 people, and I have signed it myself. I support it.

## WASTE DISPOSAL

**Mrs Stoner:** I have two petitions to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We request that Premier David Peterson and Minister of the Environment Jim Bradley guarantee that any proposal for a solid waste landfill in the region of Durham be subject to a full environmental assessment under the provisions

of the Environmental Assessment Act; and further

"That the Minister of the Environment not utilize the less restrictive provisions of the Environmental Protection Act to convene a hearing before the Environmental Assessment Board with regard to said proposal and thereby bypass the provisions of the Environmental Assessment Act and a full environmental assessment."

I have signed this, and it is also signed by 24 residents of Durham.

My second petition is somewhat similar. It reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To request that the Premier and government of Ontario withdraw immediately the P1 site located on provincially owned land in the town of Pickering as a proposed new mega dump site for Metro Toronto; and

"To urge that Metro Toronto never again be permitted to locate garbage dumps anywhere in the region of Durham; and further

"To urge that whenever a site or sites are chosen, either as contingency or long-term dump sites anywhere in the region of Durham or in the province of Ontario, the people always be granted their full and complete environmental rights and safeguards according to the Environmental Assessment Act processes."

This has been signed by 24 residents of Durham and myself.

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#### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Miss Roberts:** I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the government of Ontario, in its discussions with the Ontario Teachers' Federation on amendments to the Teachers' Superannuation Act, has refused to allow an equitable partnership between teachers and government in management of the pension fund, establishment of an acceptable contribution increase, benefit adjustments, equitable treatment of future surpluses and satisfactory dispute resolution processes;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to insist that the Treasurer of Ontario negotiate with the Ontario Teachers' Federation towards an equitable settlement."

There are 61 names, and I have affixed my name to the various petitions, as required by the rules.

**Mr Tatham:** This is from the local members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, district 46, Oxford:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government of Ontario in its discussions with the Ontario Teachers' Federation on amendments to the Teachers' Superannuation Act has refused to allow an equal partnership between teachers and government in management of the pension fund, establishment of an acceptable contribution increase, benefit adjustments, equitable treatment of future surpluses and a satisfactory dispute resolution process;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to insist that the Treasurer of Ontario negotiate with the Ontario Teachers' Federation towards an equitable settlement."

That is signed by 220 good people and my name also is affixed.

**Mr MacDonald:** I also have a petition.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to 31 May 1982 have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven to 10 years.

"This proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

I have affixed my name thereto.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

##### BUDGET DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

**Mr Morin-Strom:** This is a motion that certainly I cannot endorse. The budgetary policy of this government as reflected in the budget that was delivered last week certainly has serious flaws in it.

Today I would like to address at least briefly some of the concerns with respect to tax fairness, an issue of prime concern to residents of this province and of concern with respect to all levels of government. As the years pass, it seems that our tax system gets more and more regressive and puts the burden more and more unfairly on consumers and on middle- and lower-income

residents both of Ontario and of Canada as a whole. This government in this budget certainly has not gone the distance it should have in terms of putting some progressivity into our tax structure.

I guess I would really characterize it as an opportunity lost. The Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) has had many recommendations made to him that came from our critic in terms of the opportunities that were there to improve tax fairness in Ontario. I, as a member of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, know that we had suggestions made to our committee from groups across the province in the public hearings we held, recommending improvements to our tax structure that could make the system fairer and more equitable for everyone in Ontario.

Many of these recommendations were made to the Treasurer in terms of possible tax changes that could be made with our system, but for the most part they have been rejected out of hand. The Treasurer has not acted with respect to ensuring that everyone pay at least some tax at the higher income levels. We do not have in Ontario today a principle that everyone at least pay a minimum tax. The wealthy and major corporations have the availability of large tax write-offs and loopholes which allow them to avoid having to pay taxes despite having high incomes.

Today we have figures that indicate more than 2,900 taxpayers with incomes of over \$50,000 last year were not taxpayers at all and paid zero income taxes either to the federal government or to the Ontario provincial government. When it comes to income taxes, which should be the fairest system of taxation and the one we would encourage the use of because it is based on ability to pay and allows for formulas that would allow progressivity in the tax calculation, the provincial government continues to adopt and use the formulas that are being implemented on the federal level by the Minister of Finance, Michael Wilson.

The Treasurer knows full well that as a provincial government we have the right to set our own income tax formulas and calculations. Quebec has taken that initiative and has taken the opportunity to change the tax rules and ensure a fairer tax system, an opportunity that is available to our Treasurer but which he has rejected in this budget.

When it comes to sales taxes, the Treasurer continues to rely on sales tax as a major source of revenues for the province. Last year the Treasur-

er hit the province with an increase from seven per cent to eight per cent in our provincial sales tax, and as a result of that he took in an increase in revenues of well over 20 per cent above the revenues he had taken in the year before from sales tax. These are revenues coming from a form of taxation which is very hard on the consumers of the province and does not hit the wealthy and those who are able to put much of their income into investments and savings, as opposed to those who have to buy goods and services with most of their income.

One of the major tax opportunities that could have been used, particularly here in the Metropolitan Toronto area, was the opportunity to do something about the tremendous speculation in house prices. There could have been a speculation tax imposed on speculators—not on home owners who occupy their own home; we are talking about speculators who are buying and selling and trading properties. In many cases properties are being traded, purchased on pure speculation months and years in advance even of the actual construction. While that construction is going on, speculators are trading on the value of the housing market. The final home buyer, the person who is actually going to live in the home, ends up paying tremendously inflated prices because of the overheated market and the high percentage of units, both single-family homes and condominium units, that are currently in the hands of speculators who are looking for a quick buck.

The Treasurer could have made a move to provide some revenues from a speculation tax. As well, it would have gone some considerable distance to cooling down an overheated market in a marketplace where it has become more and more difficult for average income earners, for young families, to actually have the opportunity to have their own home, to be able to purchase their own unit, whether it is a condominium unit or a single-family home. That opportunity is only available today to those who have incomes well over the average income in Ontario; and in many communities, income levels required for mortgages on the average priced home now have to be from \$80,000 to \$100,000 just to be able to convince a bank that you can handle the mortgage payments.

#### 1520

The one area I think the Treasurer has come through on, in terms of an issue that will be of benefit to many, is the elimination of Ontario health insurance plan premiums. This is the one initiative I would commend the government for.

It has been long overdue. It is an item that our party has stood for and advocated for a long time, certainly going back to the accord agreement that was negotiated four years ago with the Liberals.

I wish the government had acted on it sooner, but the elimination of the OHIP premiums will go some distance to assisting those kinds of employees, particularly at the lower-income levels, who do not have higher-level management jobs or a strong union that is able to negotiate the payment of their OHIP premiums. Many lower-income working people in Ontario have been paying that cost of more than \$700 a year for their OHIP premiums, one of the most regressive sources of income this province has had. I know the Treasurer will find that one a political winner in terms of the numbers of people it will assist.

The funding for the replacement of the funds that came in for OHIP premiums—And we know that OHIP premiums were only paying, I believe the Treasurer had indicated before, 16 per cent of the total cost of health care in Ontario as projected for this year. As an alternative for raising that portion of the cost of health care, the government has proposed to impose a new payroll tax that it calls the employer health levy. I certainly do not think that was the best alternative to OHIP premiums. Although it is better than continuing OHIP premiums, there would have been sources in the tax structure that would have been far fairer and more progressive than imposing a payroll tax.

There is also some question about why the imposition of the payroll tax should be in the form of something called an employer health levy. I take it that the Treasurer sees that as an opportunity to justify the payroll tax, by putting it on to a subject matter that everyone in the province endorses and knows has to be funded, but it is a bit deceptive to suggest that the employer health levy will pay the costs of our health care in the province today. In fact, it will only cover a relatively small proportion, under one quarter of the total cost of health care in the province, so by no means should people or employers think they are paying the full cost of health care through this levy.

However, I am one who is not totally opposed to the concept of a payroll tax. I think a payroll tax is one source of taxation that had to be looked at by the province and probably an appropriate one to be in a mix of revenues for the province. It is one which puts some burden on the business community to pay at least some taxes in Ontario. There are serious problems with our corporate

tax structure today when we have thousands of corporations making considerable profit paying zero corporate taxes.

The government could have taken steps towards insisting that corporations pay at least a minimum tax, an item that even President Reagan and the American government moved ahead on for their corporate sector. I guess we could take some solace in feeling that a payroll tax is insisting that corporations pay at least a certain portion, based on the size of the corporation and the number of employees, towards the costs of the province.

I would also think that with the level of the economy we have in Ontario today and the increase in revenues he has seen over the last year, the Treasurer could have used that opportunity to do more in terms of a fairer tax system than having to rely on some of the other increases he has imposed on, for example, drivers in the province. If there is one set of consumers that got hit hard in this budget, it is the drivers of Ontario. The increase in gasoline taxes has to be one of the unfairer and least justified taxes the Treasurer has imposed on the province.

When we were within the minority government, the New Democrats insisted that this government have no further increases in gasoline taxes, and there was a freeze on gas taxes for that two-years-plus we were in the minority government. Now that we are back after a second election and the Liberals have a majority government, we see them sticking it to the drivers of the province, going back to the former policies of the Conservative government and imposing a very regressive, difficult tax that hits everyone on approximately the same basis.

In communities like mine and others in northern Ontario where drivers have to have cars, where, because of the distance involved, everyone drives relatively similar amounts and is dependent upon cars as the major means of transportation, the result of a heavy tax on gasoline is that it is a tax everyone pays in approximately the same amount. It is not based on income or ability to pay, and as a result it places a very difficult burden on lower-income and middle-income taxpayers and virtually no burden on higher-income people.

As well, this kind of tax is one which particularly hurts economic development and business activity in regions of the province which are geographically dispersed and farther away from marketplaces. Certainly in northern Ontario, we realize the kind of cost penalty we have, the disadvantages of our transportation infra-

structure and the penalty we have to pay for energy costs, heating and, most particularly, gasoline and diesel fuel for carrying goods and services back and forth across the highways to reach our communities in terms of the goods we are purchasing in northern Ontario. Then, for products that come out of the north, when one puts a penalty on industry in the north with higher and higher gasoline taxes, it is one which discourages the development and diversification of the northern economy.

I had hoped this government would have tried to change that type of policy and gone to a more enlightened policy which recognizes the difficulties of various regions more geographically away from the heartland of Metropolitan Toronto, where the major population and markets are, and recognizes that there are real benefits to encouraging economic development. A big part of that encouragement is providing the transportation infrastructure and ensuring that the costs of getting goods and services from communities in northern and eastern Ontario and the rural communities of Ontario can be done at a fair and reasonable cost.

Finally, in terms of taxation concerns, we have to express concern about where this province is going with its relationship to the municipalities and school boards of the province. I suppose the Treasurer uses the excuse of the federal government's cutting back on transfer payments to Ontario as his excuse for doing the same to municipalities and school boards.

**1530**

This government has not kept up its level of funding to municipalities. It has frozen funding particularly on an important component called unconditional grants and that freeze has resulted in municipalities having to impose property tax increases of eight per cent, 10 per cent or higher just to be able to keep up to inflationary increases in their costs, because in real terms the money coming from the provincial government has decreased.

This is putting a particular burden on communities like my own in Sault Ste Marie and the taxpayers are getting hit again with major property tax increases, a form of taxation which the province should be working towards eliminating, and certainly decreasing its emphasis as a source of tax revenue to governments in the province.

When it comes to education taxes, again, this government has done nothing to live up to its own commitment and its own promises in the last two election campaigns to ensure that the province

goes back to the historical level of funding 60 per cent of the cost of education in Ontario.

Since the early 1970s, the percentage that the province has provided to school boards has declined continuously to a point where it had reached 47 per cent or 48 per cent when the Liberals took power in Ontario. Despite their commitment to move back to a 60 per cent funding of the cost of education, they have continued the decline in their support for our school systems and now we are down to support levels of 42 per cent to 43 per cent of education costs to school boards across the province funded from provincial taxpayers.

The burden is going on to municipal taxpayers, and property taxes for education, for our school boards are one of the most serious problems in terms of escalation of taxes to ratepayers across Ontario.

In many communities now education taxes are higher than their municipal property taxes, a very unfair burden and one that certainly does not make any sense in terms of the throne speech announcements we heard several weeks ago where the government proclaimed that among its six priorities, one of them was going to be education.

It really is a farce when a government says that one of its priority items is education and then continues a process of reducing funding and putting more and more of the education burden on to local school boards who have to hit their local taxpayers with increases well above the inflation rate just to stay even, let alone to be able to pay for some of the new programs that are being imposed upon them by the provincial government.

One of the surprise announcements in this budget was the announcement with respect to pooling. The Treasurer has taken it upon himself to announce that all local tax bases for educational property taxes "will be shared equitably by all school boards in the same area." It is unusual that this announcement should come from the Treasurer and not from the Minister of Education (Mr Ward), particularly considering the amount of concern that has been expressed about this issue by school boards across the province, both Roman Catholic school boards and the public school boards.

My concern here is, how can one say that one is moving towards an equitable source of funding from commercial and industrial property tax assessment when one is going to do it on the basis of boards only in one particular area? How can one justify that a sharing is, as the Treasurer

claims, "shared equitably" when the sharing occurs only in a given area? Most particularly, I do not see how this government can continue to justify the tremendous tax base that is available to the city of Toronto and the Metropolitan Toronto area because of the tremendous amount of commercial development in downtown Toronto.

In my view, the institutions—those major banks, the financial institutions, the insurance companies and all those head offices on Bay Street in downtown Toronto—represent corporations that service all of Ontario; those offices are not offices exclusively serving the city of Toronto. The sense of this government continuing to provide that tremendous tax base from those institutions and the value of those properties solely to the school boards in Toronto does a disservice to this government, as it does a disservice to all the people of Ontario.

If one wants to look at fairness and equity in terms of a tax base, an assessment base where school boards have the right to get property taxes from commercial and industrial operations, fairness will never be achieved as long as that concentration of economic wealth in the city of Toronto provides a tax base solely for the school boards in Toronto. I do not see the solution presented by this government as one which is an appropriate one. It is not one that is fair to rural Ontario, it is not one that is fair to eastern Ontario, it is not one that is fair to many communities in southern Ontario and it is certainly not fair to all our communities in northern Ontario. I would ask that this government reconsider its way of sharing that property tax base to ensure that there is some real fairness to property taxpayers right across Ontario.

Of course, in the long run, property taxes are a completely inappropriate source of revenue for Ontario. I would suggest that this government should be looking at new and innovative ways of funding municipalities that would allow us to avoid the use of property taxes. In particular, I would suggest that this government should look into the possibility of replacing property taxes on a local basis with a more progressive form of taxation, preferably personal income taxes.

In particular, I think this government should look at the possibility of allowing municipalities to disband their property taxes and go to a municipal income tax as an alternative. A municipal income tax which would piggyback on to the provincial income tax but still allow municipalities the right to control their own bases and set their own percentages would be a much fairer way of raising funds on a municipal basis.

I think we really have to have a joint provincial-municipal study and co-operation to look at how we might be able to make municipal taxes fairer taxes. I would strongly suggest that either a sales tax, or more preferably an income tax at the municipal level, would be a far more preferable alternative to the current property taxes, which are more and more becoming the major, if not the only source of new tax revenues being provided to them by this provincial government. I think they are moving in the wrong direction.

We could be moving to a system of fairer taxes in Ontario, but unfortunately our Treasurer again this year has found an opportunity and has lost it. This really is an opportunity lost. I regret that I cannot support the budget direction that has been indicated in the budget address by the Treasurer. I ask that members from all parties take very serious consideration as to what the alternatives could be for a fairer system of taxation for all the taxpayers and all the types of taxation we have in Ontario.

1540

**Mr Cousens:** This is an important budget that is touching just about everybody in this province, and as one realizes that the power does lie with the government to implement its programs, as poorly defined and as poorly thought out as they might be, it has brought forward a budget that is really invoking the anger and the frustration of those of us who sit opposite and try to understand just where this government is coming from and why it is doing this to Ontario. There are many problems that I have with this budget and I trust that I will have enough time in this House to at least touch upon some of them.

The problem you have when you are in opposition, as I am, sitting with the Progressive Conservative Party, is that there are 17 of us and there are 113 of them. That includes both the Liberals and the New Democratic Party. I am not about to agree with some of the statements made by my friend the member for Sault Ste Marie (Mr Morin-Strom), but it really is that what you would call the balance of power really does not give that much opportunity for those who do oppose this budget to really stand up, stop it and force some thinking on it.

If there were a minority government right now, if there was some way in which this government had to negotiate with other members of this House, I can assure you, Mr Speaker, it would not be presenting this budget to this House, because if it was a minority government, it would be defeated. The combined resources of

both the New Democrats and ourselves would be sufficient, maybe for different reasons, but at least we would be speaking for the people of Ontario. I have to say I believe that, on balance, I am speaking for the people of Ontario.

There are things within this budget that I will touch upon that I see as a positive statement and something that indeed is needed so that we can become stronger, more tolerant and a province that really is the place that people want to live, but I see major problems with the fact that this government continues to have a deficit when in fact we are dealing with an economy that is burgeoning.

It is strong, it is strident, it is growing, and yet what continues to grow at the same pace as the economy is this government's size. They have increased the size of this government by more than 7,000 since they came to power four years ago. They continue to spend money in the delivery of programs that really affect the staff and the complement of people who are delivering them, but not the people who are receiving the support. An example of that is the Ministry of Housing, where the budget in four years has gone from \$7 million or \$8 million to over \$40 million—just phenomenal increases in the cost of running government.

What it is is the ineptitude of a group of people who came from Ottawa when Pierre Elliott Trudeau went into his retirement. They are in there helping the Premier (Mr Peterson) and his cabinet run things, and they are spenders.

They know how to do the public relations. They know how to build things so that they are comfortable and secure. They have got the latest cars, they have all the things and services that really are part of the blue-eyed sheikhs of Ontario, because there they are, living in a state of comfort with all these support mechanisms around them while the people of Ontario pay the bill. I have to say government spending is a source of a great sore and problem to those of us who look on and watch how these spenders are taking our money and just throwing it away.

I think we have to see how this government is taxing the life out of people and out of businesses and everybody who has made this province as strong as it is. They know how to tax, and then they know how to build a strong, great bureaucracy and they know how to make themselves look good, but the test is in how much they are doing to serve people and how much they are doing to really meet the needs of all the people of Ontario.

What I see is a province here now that has had some control for some time on inflation, and yet what they have introduced in this budget is a most inflationary budget. They should not kid themselves. When people sit back and say how wonderful it is that we are not going to have to pay our Ontario health insurance plan premiums, they can be just assured that those businesses that have to collect that extra money out of their payrolls are going to go back to the people who are buying their products, buying their services, in order to recapture the money they will have lost through the payroll tax. I will touch on that further in a moment.

I believe this government is going to lead our province into another series of inflation. Anyone who went through the stages of inflation when it was at such a high rate and was on a fixed income understands just how terrible inflation is. Speaking for those people who seem to have no defender on the government side, I have to say this budget is wrong and it is going to lead this province in the wrong direction as to what it is going to do to those people who we really have to serve.

I think one of the other realities is that the people of this province should realize that there are 130 seats, and of those 130 seats, approximately 30 are Metropolitan Toronto oriented. Another 10 or so service York, Durham and Peel, which surround Metro. Therefore, 40 of the 130 seats are really Metro- or greater-Toronto-oriented. Therefore, when you start seeing a double standard for the province, where in the past the province has had a standard service of serving all people equally—I remember when I was on the York Region Board of Education we said, "We want to treat the children in the southern part of the region equally with those in the northern part of the region so that there is equality of opportunity." That was a concept of government where there was no one being treated differently.

This government is now, in its budget, deciding that it is going to treat the greater Toronto area differently from the rest of the province. That comes through in the commercial tax; it comes through not just in the gas tax but the licensing fees; it comes through in just a number of the areas of this budget.

The people of greater Toronto must understand that we help fuel the economy and we also have other costs and other things that it takes in order to survive here. Now, what this government has done is to impose an extra penalty on

those who happen to have chosen to live in the greater Toronto area.

Part of the problem one has when he is in opposition is that everybody says, "Okay, Donald, you're going to get in there and you're going to lambaste the budget." I hope to do so, but I think, on the other hand, one has to have some balance. One cannot always come out from the starting gate damning everything that is being done. I would like for a moment to touch upon three areas in its budget that I would like to compliment the government on, because I think there are a number of things that have happened that are a part of the ongoing government that I feel worthy of mentioning in that they really touch upon the area of south York region, Markham, that I represent.

The first is, in 1985, when I was in cabinet for just a short time, I had the pleasure of being able to bring the announcement to the people of Markham, Unionville and Stouffville of the approval by the government of the Markham Stouffville Hospital. It was a significant decision made back in 1985 when the Miller government did not have many days left. None the less, the decision was made, and the decision, having been made, has continued to be supported by the Ministry of Health in this government.

There are many times when one government does a thing and another one will cancel it, change it, retract it. That has not been the case with the Markham Stouffville Hospital. I am very pleased that the Ministry of Health, the Management Board of Cabinet and the Premier have continued to support the construction of this great hospital for our community. It is going to open in January 1990, all going well, and the fact of the matter is that over 250 beds will help service our community. It has been a project that is a model of a good relationship between the province and our community, and I would like to compliment the government for having done that.

There are not that many hospitals being constructed in Ontario right from scratch. I think one in the past was the Credit Valley Hospital, and certainly this is another one. There was no hospital previously in the town of Markham or to service this southeastern part of York region. I stop, pause and reflect with a sense of gratification and satisfaction that this government has allowed the Markham Stouffville Hospital to continue.

It will serve our community well. We have had an outstanding board, and the community as a whole has raised in excess of \$6 million. The

community has raised its share of the funding and the region, as well, has contributed its share. The other part of the equation was that the province had to do its share, which was over 60 per cent of the total cost. So I give credit to the government.

#### 1550

Another comment I would like to make that is really part of this budget is about the Social Assistance Review recommendations made by Judge George Thomson. I want to compliment our own member for London North (Mrs Cunningham) and her ongoing support for this program. I would especially like to compliment the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney).

I happen to believe that the minister is a very conscientious, hard-working, good politician, by virtue of the fact that he has been able to take these recommendations through cabinet, having had the recommendations in the first place prepared and presented to him by Judge George Thomson.

It starts with the process. It started at least with a consensus of feeling from within this House of all three parties, where we knew that something had to be done to help those who could not really help themselves. They are on the social welfare rolls of the province, they want to get out and make a contribution to society and yet are not able to. So our system really was hindering their opportunity for self-fulfilment and for contributing something of themselves back to society. We really had a system that was archaic, that had worked in its own time but needed to be changed.

The recommendations now being implemented through the Ministry of Community and Social Services certainly have my support, the support of our critic, the member for London North, and the support of our party. I think commendation is due to the Minister of Community and Social Services for his leadership.

I would also like to comment in a positive way on part of the strategy this government has announced, in the form of a transportation strategy for the greater Toronto area. I have found it very easy to criticize the Minister of Transportation (Mr Fulton) for his failure to come up with an overall comprehensive strategy that will begin to meet the needs of all of us who are part of the greater Toronto area.

For those people in Ontario who do not come from the greater Toronto area and who are seeing us now, please understand that I respect the needs that go on in South Porcupine, Cornwall and other parts of the province. But I have to say we have got a major problem here in the greater

Toronto area, and it is becoming worse and worse by virtue of the failure of the government to put in the money in a way that would begin to solve the transportation crisis. It is unbelievably bad.

No wonder people do not come to Toronto. They only come when they have to, and when they are here they go away really glad to disappear and go back to their home town or their home territory, because it is no fun being caught on Highway 401, the Gardiner Expressway, the Don Valley Parkway or any of our major transit routes. It is no fun using the TTC and the underground services of Toronto transit. The fact is that people who rely upon the bus services and all the public transit system know it is overcrowded. When they try to get into the subway, we are almost at the point where we are going to have people pushing them on to maximize the number of square feet there.

Therefore, what we are seeing may be the possibility that the government is going to give an emphasis to transportation in the greater Toronto area. To that I say hurray. I have not yet seen the recommendations. I know if they kept going at the pace they are now, Highway 407 would not be in place to start using for 23 more years, because what the government has put into Highway 407 for the last two years is something like \$25 million a year. The total project is \$650 million. If you just divide 25 into that, you are talking about 24 or 25 years.

Fortunately, there is at least a mention in this budget of Highway 407 and that the government is going to do something to accelerate Highway 407. Highway 407 is needed to relieve Highway 401; it is needed to relieve the east-west traffic in York region. The fact of the matter is that this government is now saying it is putting together a \$1-billion plan and proposal to help make that happen. I have to say: "Good stuff. Keep on with it. Let's make sure you put those dollars into it so that we begin to have some results." In order to start Highway 407, they slowed up Highway 404. We just have to keep this road construction under way.

Members have also got to understand that we are going to have major problems after 3 June with the opening of the domed stadium. What we are going to have is just chaos, absolute chaos, when people go to the opening of SkyDome and to the baseball game on the 5th and the 6th. I got my tickets today and I am wondering whether I really want to go. It is going to be just terrible.

Yet, unlike governments in the past, where we saw planning in advance of all that was

happening, this government does it after the fact. Before, when a new community such as mine was formed, the roads would be in place and then the community would come in around it. Now what happens is that we get the people all in there and they do not have the transit services or routes in order to get out of the place.

I do not think we would want to get out of Markham or the South York region, but most of us, a large percentage, work in areas around York region. Therefore, we need transit services. We are paying the taxes and we certainly want the services in return. In fact, the statement made by the Minister of Transportation that he is going to do something with transportation is in itself a compliment and I would like to commend him for it.

I live in a community in which there is so much to be thankful for. We do not just rely on the government to do everything. Maybe that is what people in Ontario have to understand: The government cannot run everything. If it does, we end up getting this group of Liberals running it the way they are now.

In our community, in January, there was a tragic accident of a young hockey player who broke his neck and is now a quadriplegic. Kurt Gengenbach is making good progress. Our community has rallied around him and his family, in order to try to at least show him that we care and we really want to hope for the best for him.

An example was when two of our local town councillors, regional councillor Fred Cox and local councillor Jim Jones, with the co-operation of a host of people, sold over 1,300 tickets at \$100 a ticket. They had an auction and they had celebrity sports there and raised \$150,000 in one evening to help Kurt Gengenbach have the services that he needs in order to live a fruitful and fulfilling life.

That is the kind of thing that happens in my community and I know it happens in communities across this country and this province. People know that the government cannot do everything, that we have to do something to help ourselves. I give that as an example of something really good that can happen.

Maybe there is a lesson for all of us. We should not just sit back and say: "Let the government do it. Let the government pay for it. Let the government provide this service." We also have to be able to work together and support volunteer agencies that are out there trying to make this a better province. We should not just rely on this government to do it. That is for sure.

The United Way is another example in my region. I am very proud of the way that the United Way has continued to grow and last year raised in excess of \$2.2 million. The problem is that it continues to need more funding for other services and the budget that we have just announced here and that we are dealing with is going to make it more difficult for people to contribute to other agencies and services, because there is not going to be much money left in their pockets after this government has dealt with them.

What we are really seeing in my area, and probably in many other areas across the province, is communities that want to have the best for their children, the best for their seniors, the best for everybody, so that we can enjoy what is ours and what is our right.

I would like to say that the fact that we are dealing with this budget is an example of how a government has gone amok and has failed to understand that there is a balance that is needed, that it can leave some money in people's pockets, that it can leave something for them to do on their own.

Let me touch on some of the problems I have with this budget and establish something of an historical context for where we are at. All in all, this budget adds up to \$568 million in new taxes this year. That amounts to \$1.3 billion in new taxes in a full year; \$1.3 billion in a full fiscal year is what will be netted to the province through this budget. On top of that, the Liberal government will rake in an additional \$1.3 billion in new taxes as a result of this budget.

I think people should realize that this is following upon the 1988 budget, where the personal income tax rate was increased. In fact, what it really amounts to is that we have had three provincial income tax increases in 20 months, one per cent a time. It has gone from 50 to 51, 52 and 53 per cent of our federal taxes. By adding another one per cent this year, this really is an additional \$210 million for the red-tie government.

**1600**

In fiscal 1989-90, compared to the interim results for 1988-89, revenues jumped by 9.4 per cent and expenditures by 6.7 per cent. The government will spend \$41.3 billion in this fiscal year, \$14.8 billion or 56 per cent more than was spent by the last Progressive Conservative government in 1984-85. In four years this Liberal government has doubled the amount of money that it is spending. Nothing has gone up by as much, except my temperature and the tempera-

ture of everybody else who is concerned about the cost of government.

If this money were being spent on services or getting rid of the debt and really wiping out the debt and really setting the house in order, then we would have something to celebrate. Instead of celebrating, we are here and we are going to make the point again and again that the Ontario Progressive Conservative caucus would not run a government the way this government is running this one and we would not be as fiscally irresponsible as this government is.

This government will collect a total of \$30.2 billion in taxes this year, \$3.2 billion more than last year and \$15.2 billion or 101.1 per cent more than in 1984-85. We are seeing the costs of everything go up, but a lot of it has to do with the way this government wants to do everything for everyone. The government wants to spend more and more without having a real understanding of what it takes out of the pocketbooks and out of the livelihoods of the people who work to make this province a great place to live in.

When you look at the major new taxes, you know that people do not see it. They are used to having their taxes taken off at the source before they get their paycheques. But the fact of the matter is that the personal income tax for this province is now at the point where if you were to live in Ontario around the Toronto area versus Buffalo, it would cost you about 30 per cent more to live in and around Toronto, and it is primarily because of the heavy tax load that we have here.

Why is it that this government has to continue to levy more taxes on gasoline? It sounds so easy when they say one cent a litre. That is four cents a gallon. Yet four cents a gallon now and then four cents a gallon—but I remember how one government in Ottawa had real trouble—

**Mr Miller:** If you want roads you have to pay for them.

**Mr Cousens:** Well, the problem is that we are talking about just a gouging, gouging government. They come along and have a tire tax now, have the gas guzzler tax, have the employer health levy tax and have the commercial concentration levy.

When we start to think of what they are doing through the commercial concentration levy and through the employer health levy—there is this word "levy." It almost sounds easier to say than "tax." We all know what tax is; we know they are hitting us in our pocketbook. But the way they come along and try to sell their lovely little ways: "the employer health levy." It is a tax.

It is a tax that is going to hurt businesses and it is going to cause them to maybe cut back. It is going to cause them to think about expanding in Ontario or maybe moving to another location rather than staying in our place. It is going to remove something of our competitive position that I think we should be building towards and working on.

We are talking about a province that has to become far more competitive. We have to build a province that is going to expand our horizons beyond our own borders and into the United States and Europe and the Pacific and everywhere possible so that we become enterprising entrepreneurs who are not afraid of the opportunity that the rest of the world gives.

But we should also encourage people to come into our environment and to come here and do business with us. What we are really going to do is make it noncompetitive for them. They will have to think twice or three times before they come here. What a shame.

I will touch further on my concerns about the land transfer tax and lot levy that the government is bringing in, but I just have to underline my complete disdain for the way this government is coming along and taking money out of the pockets of the people of Ontario and not really giving that much back.

When I think of my own area, York region, we are faced now with a lot levy proposal. As you read the fine print, you suddenly find out that York region will not be able to assign any of the moneys from lot levies for hospitals. A few moments ago I was commenting on the Markham Stouffville Hospital. York region was a major contributor to our new Markham Stouffville Hospital, yet the kind of moneys that it would have been able to give us, which is in excess of \$10 million or \$12 million—a lot of money by anyone's standards—it will no longer be able to raise through lot levies. The government has said, "No, we are going to find another source, so you will have an education lot levy."

The municipalities can have certain lot levies but not hospitals. That means that over the next 10 years York region will lose \$29.25 million just by that little phrase. That is enough for quite a lot more hospital beds and for our own region to participate in it.

In fact, what could well happen with that kind of thinking from this government that is saying the region can no longer collect lot levies for hospitals is that a region like York might start saying: "Why should we even pay for hospitals? The province is throwing so much on our backs

that we have to pay. Maybe in the future we as a regional municipality will not contribute towards hospitals, because the province is really closing the door on that opportunity for the region to raise necessary funding."

When I start thinking about what this budget does as well, and in checking with the treasurer of York region, an extra levy—just the cost, instead of having the health insurance program, and I keep on forgetting what it is called now—the employee health levy, will cost York region an extra \$300,000 just in this fiscal year. May I ask where that money is going to come from? It is another way in which it is going to go back to the local ratepayers, who have to pay more of the cost of running things.

I am dealing with a region which is facing a crisis in finances, because we are growing so quickly that we are not able to provide the services quickly enough for all the new people coming in. I would like to quote from the 30 March 1989 press release from York region. John Scott, the information officer, says, "Funding cuts and other shifts of costs to property taxpayers by the province are blamed for half of a \$48.40 tax increase for the average York region home owner."

It is not that they are poor administrators. I happen to be very impressed by the staff and political people who are running the region of York. As I have talked with other representatives of regional councils in Peel and Durham, I am impressed too by their leadership and their capabilities. But what can they do? They are having to pass on to the local ratepayer, the total property owner, costs of services that heretofore were covered by the provincial government. The province does it so nicely and easily that the media pick it up and have one little trip about it and people do not really understand what happened.

What happened in fact is that in December 1988 the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) of this province announced the decision by the province to freeze 1989 unconditional grants and roads assistance at the 1988 levels. They froze them. Why? They do not take into consideration at all anything of the growth and needs. It is just a way of freezing it, so that much of that extra cost is now a burden of the local property owners in York region or in any region.

The Treasurer indicated that he has his provincial priorities, but his provincial priorities are now at the cost of the regions and the municipalities across this province, and the

municipalities and regional governments are as angry as I have ever seen them.

I have a report from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. What an impressive organization it is. When we start seeing that Stephen Clark, who is mayor of Brockville and president of the association, is having special meetings in which they are coming out and—they are angry. They cannot believe how badly this government is treating the municipalities in Ontario.

I look at some of the things that come out of their press release. AMO “spoke to the hidden agenda of the provincial government. President Stephen Clark challenged the apparent policy of the government of Ontario of assessing municipal revenues to pay for provincial programs.” That is the point I want to make.

**Mr Dietsch:** Wasn't Stephen the Conservative candidate in Leeds?

**Mr Cousens:** No, he was not. What I am talking about is where the province is taking programs that have long been established as provincial programs and is now saying to the local municipality, “Okay, educational improvements”—and I will come to education in a moment, if I have time. They are passing that load on to the local municipalities. Higher welfare rates are being passed on to the local municipality. Increased accessibility for child care is passed on. Additional mandatory health programs are now paid for at the local level, community-based social services as well.

Pay equity is something this government strongly supports, but I will tell members it is having a heavy cost at the local level. There was a negotiation with the York Region Board of Education just in the last couple of weeks, and the cost to the board on that unit alone is in excess of \$2 million a year.

We are seeing how the new occupational health and safety legislation is being passed on to the local level. Bill 187, which is still under consideration in this House and which has to do with courtroom security, is another example of where the local level will be picking up the courtroom security costs. I look at the whole municipal-industrial strategy for abatement, and all of the monitoring and gathering of that data is passed on to the municipality.

What we are talking about is a significant passing on of provincial responsibilities, provincial costs to the local level, to the extent that there was a tax increase in York region that amounted to 11 per cent. You start getting that down. If you

look at the region of Sudbury, it was up by 11 per cent. You are talking about the town of Exeter.

**Mr McLean:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: This is an excellent speech and I think there should be at least 20 people here listening to it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr M. C. Ray) ordered the bells rung.

1614

**The Acting Speaker:** The member for Markham will now resume.

**Mr Cousens:** My point here is the effect on the local tax base this province is going to have. In summary, if you were to really look at it, what it means is that in my area alone we have had an approximately 20 per cent increase in local taxes in this year. If we have a continuing abandonment of provincial programs and pass them on to the local ratepayer and the local property owner, we could have a doubling of property taxes within the next four to five years.

If you start compounding the interest and compounding everything else that is involved with it, you are talking about an affordability crisis for people to own their home. Right now it is almost impossible to buy a home in the greater Toronto area; now it going to be almost impossible to carry on in that home, especially if you are on a fixed income.

I would like to touch on one other aspect, and that has to do with the problems around education. When you start considering the whole problem that education is having to maintain quality programs and you start reading the letters that I am receiving from such associations as the Ontario Public School Boards' Association—I would just like to read the beginning of their 11 April press release. It says:

“‘A shortfall in provincial government grants to Ontario's elementary and secondary schools means that Ontario citizens will be facing double-digit school tax increases or see their educational services cut back,’ said Arlene Wright, president of the OPSBA.”

What we are really seeing is more and more evidence that this government is cutting back on education.

They are great with the talk. When the throne speech came out, education was one of the great priorities of this government, and yet when you get down to the reality of how much money is going out there, in fact it was abominable what the Minister of Education (Mr Ward) did.

He went by plane and flew around the province to tell people how much he was doing for capital grants. He did not bother to talk with the chairmen of the school boards or the administra-

tion. He came in, had a press conference and then moved on to another place. Yet, at the same time, he was not fully clear on what these government promises were all about.

We are going to see how bad some of them are when we are dealing with York region. I know in one community in particular he made an announcement and the press picked it up as if, boy, you had the schools announced. The fact of the matter is it is going to be the local ratepayers who pick up the costs, and yet the minister was there, got the headlines, got the first hit, got the news out that he was really a hero. The fact is he is no hero. When you start looking at the facts around what is going on in education, people have something to be alarmed about.

Let's first of all talk about lot levies. My caucus is strongly opposed to this government's initiative to start collecting more and more tax dollars through lot levies for education. Our opposition is based on the fact that the proposed levies are inconsistent with the government's avowed commitment to affordable housing and the well-founded suspicion—given the government's policies on Sunday shopping, court security and unconditional municipal road transfers—that the proposal is simply another part of this government's hidden agenda to offload its responsibilities on to Ontario municipalities.

The proposed lot levies would place an unfair additional burden on new home buyers. It would further inflate home prices. It would hit some taxpayers but not others and would totally negate the already minimal benefits available from the government's Ontario home ownership savings plan. In the midst of a housing affordability crisis, it makes no sense to pursue a measure which, regardless of market forces, will add thousands of dollars to the price of a home by way of a hidden tax.

The proposed lot levy is also an inappropriate mechanism for financing the educational system. The maintenance of a quality educational system is in the interests of and is the responsibility of the entire community, not just new home buyers, and should be financed as such.

When the government came through with its budget, it said it would be optional for municipalities to begin with its lot levy proposal. It is not, because the government has already given its capital grants at a new low rate. In my own York region, the rate has been reduced from 75 per cent share by the province to 60 per cent share by the province. The remaining 15 per cent or more will be collected through local lot levies.

I find it peculiar that this government would come along and have a reversal such as it does on this important subject. I would really hope that the board would find other ways of financing education than coming along and penalizing in such a punitive way the new home buyer, as it is in this one.

I believe that property tax is not the most appropriate basis for financing the majority of education costs. I do find it rather upsetting that the government has gone ahead and tried to find this as a mechanism to pay for new schools. They made the commitment and now they are backing off and it is going to be passed on to our own local ratepayers.

Our school boards are furious at this government, and I am seeing signs of that at every turn. I thought one of the quotes that came from a trustee in Vaughan, in the area of the Minister of Labour (Mr Sorbara), expressed the mood of the the Roman Catholic separate school board in a very excellent way and I want to quote from what he said. This is taken from the board's Highlights. I just have to find it again.

#### 1620

"He accused the provincial government of making promises it cannot fund and placing the financial responsibility on local ratepayers. What is happening here is that the provincial government is centralizing the glory and decentralizing the blame."

That is exactly what the Minister of Education did when he went around saying, "Oh, look at the big announcements," but he did not take the time to explain to people how much more of the blood would be taken from the system in the local areas.

This board, the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board, has written a letter to the Minister of Education requesting emergency funding for needed school projects and requesting earlier funding for projects to be approved in 1991-92.

We are not beginning to get enough money to build the schools for the new people who are coming to our area. The fact of the matter is that we have more portables than we have ever had, thanks to the Peterson government. The people who are sending their children to portables probably will see those kids in portables right through their whole elementary education and right into high school. We have high schools that are 50 per cent portables, and if you talk about that being satisfactory, it is not.

All you have to do is be a parent of one of those children in my area and you would understand

how frustrating it is. Here is a government that says all the big words about education, and when it comes time to really doing something for the children, it is not doing it.

All you have to do is start looking at the numbers of children we are getting in there. It is unbelievable. I do not know where they are going to put them, I do not know where the roads are going to be, but right now the Roman Catholic separate school board projects its total number of students for 1989 at 36,748.

Let's just look at how much it goes up. In 1990 it goes up to 40,000; 1991 to 43,000; 1992 to 46,000; 1993 to 48,000; 1994 to 51,000; 1995 to 54,000; 1996 to 57,000. It goes right through to 1997, 60,000. In 1998, 10 years from the last figure, there will be 63,781 children from what was there in 1988, 32,964. It is phenomenal growth, and those poor new kids who are coming along will probably be in portables, for the large part.

What you end up having is a school board given the responsibility to provide an education for the children and yet not given the funding for it.

I would like to quote and put on the record the chairman of the Roman Catholic school board, Joe Virgilio, who on 10 May 1989 wrote a letter to the Minister of Education. He sent copies to me as well as the York region members of Parliament, the member for York Centre (Mr Sorbara), the member for Durham-York (Mr Ballinger) and the member for York North (Mr Beer). What he says is,

"We are writing this letter to express our serious concerns over the totally inadequate and inequitable level of educational funding for separate school boards in Ontario and specifically the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board."

He goes on to say, "It is now one year later and for 1989 the financial concerns previously outlined remain." In other words, they have talked, they have not listened, and now the problem still remains. It is not a political problem for the Premier and the Minister of Education, but it sure is for the local trustees. Here is what he says:

"Those financial concerns have, however, been significantly aggravated by the insulting"—notice he uses the word "insulting." I use that language around here and those guys all pick on me. Here he is saying it is insulting—"1989 general legislative grants, which were received and their impact determined in the fourth month of the year to which they apply." He goes on.

You are dealing with a responsible board, not unlike the public board, and it is saying: "What are we supposed to do? We're given the job under the Education Act to be trustees," and what this government does is make it impossible for them to do the kind of job they need to do.

I have a group of people who have been fighting for a way for Brother Andre Catholic high school. You are talking about probably one of the most responsible group of parents. They had a newsletter they sent out on 8 May and here is what they said:

"The provincial allocation falls well short of the minimum needed to effectively resolve the crisis." By the way, the crisis is the school crisis, the accommodation crisis. We have got super teachers in York region, but we have a real problem in having accommodation for the children.

The board stated in its press release, "We are grateful for the allocations we have received." So we do three bows. "However, it isn't anywhere close to what we have been asking for and what we need. For instance, seven of the 10 projects we have received allocations for will not see any real dollars until 1992.

"Personally," he says, "I am very concerned about the province's apparent lack of concern over the education crisis facing York region. These funds in my opinion represent too little, too late. If we cannot secure a new high school until September 1992, then the enrolment of Brother Andre could conceivably be twice the design capacity of the school by that date."

May I just suggest to you, Mr Speaker, when Mr Bruce Keen had put that together along with other representations, he has said in an honest and clear way on behalf of the people of that school, but on behalf of every other school that has a crisis in funding from this province, "We are deeply concerned about this serious problem."

And he goes on to say, "Many of our children have endured intolerable situations at the elementary school level and we, as parents, are not prepared to accept a similar overcrowding situation in Brother Andre." And he goes on.

The fact is he is mad, but he is right, and this government is wrong not to fund them the way it should. The government just thinks it is going to go away and it can get these little beaters coming along here, harping away, thinking that there is something the matter with me.

I will tell the members opposite, there is something the matter with their government, by failing to do what they should be doing to finance

and fund education as it should be. We are talking about people moving into a region and it is just like anything else: when they were in opposition as a government, they were saying, "Let's get the schools built when 80 per cent of the kids are there. Let's do it before that time." No change.

Here is a government that talks out of both sides of its mouth. When they were in opposition, they were saying they were going to make some changes. When they get in there—I was fighting for that as well, when I was in the back benches of another government. I was not successful then, but I believed it then and I believe it today: We should not be building the schools so long after the fact, when the children are there, that in fact they have had to be housed in portables or bused for miles and miles and years and years without having the proper accommodation.

We have got a problem in York region as well. Here is the government that comes along and says, "We are going to do junior kindergarten and we are going to have an expansion of kindergarten services." Do members know what that does to the York Region Board of Education? It means that they need 93 more classrooms and 93 more teachers. And is the money coming from this government to finance it? It is not coming. It is going to come out of the local ratepayers and we are going to see an increase in what they have to pay.

It is one thing to come along and have great expectations and expand the goals, hopes and aspirations of Ontario, but it is quite another thing to have to pay for it. It is going to come out of the backs of the people in our area. They are worried about it. The fact is that many of those people who are paying for it are seniors on fixed income and cannot afford the kind of increases in property taxes that are going to be levied because of this government's programs that are passed on to the local level.

I have to tell you, Mr Speaker, I am angry. I am really angry at the failure of this government to deal honestly and with integrity on the matters of fiscal responsibility for running the system. The government builds up the expectations, it says it is going to do something and then who pays the bill? Not the government. It falls on the local ratepayers. I will just tell members that I am sick of it and—

**Mr Dietsch:** Where would you take it from?

**Mr Cousens:** The member will have his turn to speak. But the fact is that it is a serious matter and I have been elected by the people of York

region to speak out on this, and the fact is, the government comes along and thinks it is a laugh. I do not think it is a laugh at all.

There are other problems to this budget. Here is a government that has a social budget, and I would like to give a compliment to those areas and I tried to find that at the beginning of my address. But I have to say, is it not odd, if we start looking at what Canada is all about: in Canada, we cut down more trees than probably any other place in the world and yet we import chainsaws. Stop and think about what that means.

If we look at Sweden and some of the other countries, Sweden is a socialized country and yet somehow it has been able to keep industry, commerce and entrepreneurship strong. They manufacture cars, airplanes and armaments. They have tremendously good computer equipment. We are talking about Electrolux, Saab and Volvo. What do we have that is comparable in Canada, which is a bigger country with more resources?

I really believe that here is a government that has failed to look at its responsibility to industry and commerce. What it has done instead of having any incentives to industry is that it has come along and taxed them.

It is too bad we cannot develop our own chainsaws in this country. Maybe we do not need to cut down as many trees, because people can cut them down cheaper and there are more of them elsewhere. In fact, we are moving into an economy that will not be cutting as many trees in the future. We are moving away from commodities and into innovative things. We are moving into high technology, yet I have a fear that this government does not show the support it should show to the Minister of State for Science and Technology, who has a real job to give leadership.

Today at noonhour I had the pleasure of having lunch with the Honourable Harvie Andre, the Minister of State for Science and Technology. It was at a meeting of the York Technology Association. What I was really impressed by was the way in which, at a federal level, we are talking about a ministry that is trying to promote the exchange of information; it is trying to have a sharing of information throughout the country. We want to pursue the sciences. We want to expand the number of people who are involved in research and development and science and technology.

When we compare Canada with other countries, and we have 30 of 1,000 employees who are engineers, we have to increase that so that

more and more of our technology can be developed, maintained and expanded by the brains of our youth, who will have learned more of what science and technology are all about.

We need to increase the proportion of engineers and technologists. We need somehow, as a country, to begin to position ourselves strategically for an opportunity that will open up when we are into the new opportunities provided by the free trade agreement with the United States.

Yet what are we doing? This budget has no reference at all to how this government can, in a significant way, help us position ourselves so that we can be strong in the future.

**Mr Hampton:** On a point of order: I do not think we have a quorum. Since we are debating the budget, it would seem to be fairly important.

The Acting Speaker ordered the bells rung.

1634

**The Acting Speaker:** A quorum is now present. The member for Markham will continue.

**Mr Cousens:** I guess the budget is one of the most important documents that comes out in this House. We deal with many things. The budget debate has a traditional purpose, to give all parties an opportunity to present their views.

I realize that my views would not be the same as those of too many of the Liberals. Surely most of them are not able to stand up and speak their minds. They, in fact, have to go with party policy. They will not be able to come out and deal with some of the local issues, because they will be afraid of losing their opportunity for advancement in the Peterson government, knowing that their parliamentary assistantship could be terminated very quickly or that something would happen if they stepped out of place. Therefore, they are all pooled together.

**Mr Carrothers:** Is that how it worked in your government, Don?

**Mr Cousens:** Just by the reaction, you can tell I have hit a nerve.

Interjections.

**The Acting Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr Cousens:** I would like to touch for just a moment on some of the concerns around the Metropolitan Toronto area. It was amazing that the budget, which follows from the throne speech—Really, in some respects you could tell it was not going to do an awful lot for Metro. They sure were not going to brag about it in the throne speech beforehand, because Metro and the greater Toronto area did not receive any mention at all in the throne speech. The throne speech

becomes a time when they can do some gloating, bloating and bragging about all the things they are going to do, but then when the real down-to-earth situation develops as per the budget, the people of greater Toronto suddenly find that here is a government that has another plan for what the people of Ontario really have to do.

We are seeing a problem in Toronto with unprecedented levels of congestion, we are dealing with a lack of reaction on transit initiatives, we are talking about deteriorating highways and roads, yet the government refuses to improve the funding levels to the municipalities. That in itself is a source of great problems. In Metro Toronto alone, the shortfall in funding for transportation means that repairs and rehabilitation of current systems of roads will just not be done, just will not be happening. It is estimated that even the current funding in Metro is several million dollars short for the repairs that need to be done.

I hated it last night when the Don Valley Parkway was closed. I had not seen it was going to be closed. Now that we are into the repair season, the poor people of Ontario. If we had a long-term hope that there was going to be a solution to all the road problems, then we would have a sense of hope and optimism.

**Mr Black:** There is.

**Mr Cousens:** At this time of the year, when I head up to the member's country in Muskoka, as I did on the weekend—

Interjections.

**The Acting Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr Cousens:** —and I see the disrepair of the roads and the failure of this government to do anything about it, I think you should stand up and have some kind of—

**The Acting Speaker:** Order, please. The member will address his remarks through the Speaker.

**Mr Cousens:** Traffic congestion alone costs close to \$1.9 billion for everyone: the retailers, the manufacturers and the consumers. It is the cost of these trucks and equipment sitting and not moving.

**Mr Furlong:** Where did you get those figures?

**Mr Cousens:** I got those figures from the Ontario Good Roads Association.

Congestion also exacts a social cost from our communities and our families, in the wasted time spent on freeways and downtown streets.

Transportation planning is becoming increasingly development-led. What we need is a matter

of reacting now in an insightful, long-term way on how we can envision the transportation networks around Metropolitan Toronto, the greater Toronto area. I just hope that the few dollars being set aside, which I complimented the minister for, in the early stage can be invested in the proper areas and not just splurged away on some of the things that are not important.

I want to say one other thing.

**Mr Dietsch:** I can hardly wait until you get to multiculturalism.

**Mr Cousens:** If members opposite want to keep chattering—

**The Acting Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr Cousens:** As we are dealing with the garbage crisis in and around the greater Toronto area, I have to say that certainly the people in south York region are concerned with the fact that there could well be a new garbage site in Durham and that the government will not be proceeding with a full environmental assessment. I find that just unbelievable.

**Mr Furlong:** You don't know that's a fact.

**Mr Cousens:** I tell the honourable member for Durham Centre that I would just love it if he were right, if he can tell us there will be a full environmental assessment for the garbage dumps being proposed for York, Durham and Peel. The fact is that I am hearing—and enough people are concerned—that this government is just going to go ahead and shove down the throats of the people of those communities those new garbage dumps—and we need them—without a full environmental assessment. I think we have just had an announcement made by the member for Durham Centre saying that there will be a full environmental assessment. I would like to have that on the record. The member for Durham Centre is very supportive of that.

1640

We are talking about a relationship between the province and the city which is deteriorating. It is deteriorating on just about every level, and we are talking municipal politicians—

**Mr Black:** That's nonsense.

**Mr Cousens:** When I hear the member for Muskoka talk about nonsense, he is a specialist in it. Maybe he can stand up and give one of his speeches so that we will really get a proper definition of what "nonsense" is.

There are a number of points I have tried to make in my presentation. In conclusion, what I would like to say is that I have tried to be balanced in giving credit where credit was due. It

is unfortunate that there is not that much credit due to this government, but in those areas in which they have been supportive—the hospital in my own community and the Social Assistance Review Committee by the Minister of Community and Social Services and hopefully a good transportation initiative—that is a beginning.

In the meantime, the people of Ontario will pay the bill: double the taxation in four years since this government took power. What we are seeing is also a passing through of those costs to the local ratepayer. We are going to see more inflation. We are going to see more costs of government. What we are going to see, as well, is a government that continues to spend on itself and not really on the needs of the people of this province who need those services.

I will be voting against the budget of this government, and I just hope there will be enough people from the Liberal back benches who will join with me and the members of the Ontario Progressive Conservative caucus to vote this budget down.

**Mr Sola:** I would like to respond to the member's statement with just a few quotes from various newspapers. Here is one headline from the Toronto Star, May 21: "Scrapping OHIP Premiums a Nice Gift for Many Families."

It goes on to say: "If you list the pluses and minuses, chances are you'll conclude you will be better off in 1990 because of this budget. And even if you aren't, there's an element of fairness in this financial blueprint for the next 12 months that may make the pill easier to swallow."

It goes on: "For individuals, the elimination of OHIP premiums next January—that's a saving of \$714 at the family rate—makes an awfully nice gift that far outweighs the modest increase Nixon plans for Ontario income tax next year."

In regard to that income tax, which will go to 53 per cent of the federal tax, George Brett says, "But this is a fleabite compared to the advantage you get from the dropping of the OHIP premiums."

That is just one opinion.

Then in regard to picking on the Metropolitan Toronto area, when you take a look at the transportation announcement, Highway 403, Highway 410, Highway 427, the Queen Elizabeth Way and Highway 407 are all within the greater Metro area. A transit link to Pearson International Airport, I think, benefits Metro Toronto and the greater Toronto area, if it benefits anybody.

Then, gateways to speed commuters: There are 15 gateways in the greater Toronto area.

More GO Transit and Toronto Transit Commission service: GO improvements will include extensions of service to Oshawa, downtown Hamilton, Milton, Georgetown, Richmond Hill and Stouffville.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. The member's time is up.

**Mr McLean:** I would like to comment on the member's speech this afternoon. It certainly brought out a few facts that a few members in this Legislature did not like to hear. I would like to comment on some of the facts he did bring out.

With regard to the indication by the Treasurer that he has reduced the deficit and has recorded surpluses and practically given the people of this province a balanced budget, I want to say something. I want to tell members what the truth is. That is what the Treasurer said. The truth is that he is adding another \$577 million to the debt. The total debt will be \$39,921,000,000 after this year. That is \$4,159 for every man, woman and child in this province, and he has the nerve to get up here in the Legislature and say that he has reduced the deficit, that this province is showing good fiscal responsibility, which is not the truth at all.

The member who just spoke previously certainly indicated much of that in his statement. There is going to be another 101 per cent increase since 1984-85 in the provincial spending, and he says that is good fiscal management. I say it is not.

I want to comment briefly with regard to the payroll tax that is going to be taken off all the school boards and the hospitals and everyone in this province. When we look at the amount of money that is going into the payroll tax from the tourist industry, there will be fewer jobs for temporary, part-time and casual labour because of this extra tax. You cannot tell me that the gasoline tax is going to help the tourist industry; it is certainly not. The increased taxation that has been put on by this Treasurer in the last two years is exorbitant and disgraceful. I think the member's speech was excellent.

When I look at some of the spending with regard to some of the ministries, I am glad to see the Office for Disabled Persons' administration has increased 90 per cent in three years, just for administration. I say that is fiscal mismanagement.

**Hon Mr Mancini:** Once again, we have witnessed great laxity in the way members use figures in the House. The honourable member who just finished speaking said something about the administrative costs of the Office for

Disabled Persons. The honourable member opposite knows full well that the office was created three years ago, and the figures he alludes to are not correct at all.

What the honourable member should be referring to, if he was indeed honest with himself and with the members here in the House, is the fact that he and a lot of other members across the floor have written me letters, have asked questions here in the Legislature about programs like the Ontario home renewal program for disabled persons, and we have increased the budget for the next two years by \$5 million in each year so that we could accommodate the people who have requested the use of the program as supported by the honourable member opposite.

The speech that was given by the member for Markham (Mr Cousens) was quite interesting. He lashed out in every direction: north, south, east and west. As he was lashing out north he would say we are spending too much, and then he would turn around and go south and say we are not spending enough. Oddly enough, for some reason he seemed to focus on York region, where the honourable member is from, and laid out a litany of areas where we could spend more money. As soon as he finished laying out that litany of areas where we could spend more money, he then turned on the rest of the province and said we should not be spending any money anywhere else.

As far as the deficit is concerned, when I was first elected in 1975, I want to tell my friend opposite who just finished that the annual provincial debt was almost \$3 billion.

**Mr Adams:** I would like to pick up on the point about the debt and the deficit. The member for Simcoe East (Mr McLean) made remarks about the size of the debt. He should know that at present it would take 10 months of our current provincial revenue to pay off completely that debt, which is the overall debt he was talking about. Only one year ago, that was 15 months. Now if that is not an improvement, I do not know what is.

Also, with regard to his federal colleagues, I would point out that the increase in the annual deficit at the federal level equals—that is, the increase this year alone after four years in power—the size of our annual payments. With regard to the federal debt, our total debt, the provincial debt of Ontario, is equal to the annual deficit at the federal level.

**Mr McLean:** On a point of personal privilege, Mr Speaker: The minister has said the figures that

I released in this Legislature are incorrect. I want to tell members that the figures I released are in this year's 1989 budget and they are correct.

1650

**Mr Cousens:** I thank the member for Simcoe East. I believe he has touched a nerve of the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr Mancini), because there is no doubt that the minister responsible for the disabled failed to understand the point made by the member, that he is spending money with a great abandon on his administration and support costs and not necessarily putting it where it is needed.

I would also say that the minister responsible for the disabled made accusations which were totally wrong. I think there has to be a balance in what he is talking about, and I was asking for that. If he is going to have new areas coming in, he should provide the services for them, not just abandon them the way this government is doing. The last thing I will ever do is try to do things for one area at the expense of the other. What this government has done is do things to Metropolitan Toronto, in charging it taxes, that it is not doing to the other parts of the province. I would just ask him to stop and look himself.

The member for Mississauga East (Mr Sola) gives Liberal happy talk, but what he needs to do is look at the tax commentary of Deloitte Haskins and Sells Associates when they talk about the employer health levy. They say: "The imposition of the employer health levy to replace OHIP premiums is just one more tax burden for businesses to shoulder, whether they be large or small, incorporated or unincorporated, profitable or struggling. It may represent a disincentive to job creation or job retention. Such a tax can be expected to cause the greatest difficulty for existing small businesses or those just starting up, as profit margins for these enterprises tend to be small. Employers currently suffering losses and those in the service sector and other labour-intensive industries will be hit hard by the new tax."

The member for Mississauga East should consider carefully what he says when he thinks he is doing everybody a big favour by levying that employer health levy.

**Mrs Sullivan:** Once again, I am pleased to participate in the debate on the Ontario budget. Last year, I was able to combine my remarks on the province's fiscal plans with my maiden speech to the House. This year, I feel something of an older hand in putting forward my views. One of the views that has not changed over that

period of time is my view that the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) will surely be counted as one of the finest treasurers in the history of the province. I believe that this budget tells the story of why he will be held in such esteem.

The 1989 Ontario budget is creative and innovative. It provides the underpinnings for a substantial action agenda. It has been carefully crafted to combine fiscal responsibility with social justice. It is a Liberal budget. It provides services needed today while building for a better tomorrow. It will keep Ontario dynamic, compassionate and competitive.

In my remarks, I want to raise some of the issues that people in my constituency have brought forward to me. The province's fiscal and expenditure plans mean a great deal to people in my riding, and they have told me their views. My experience is not unique among members, of course, but we would all agree that the passion that is expressed becomes more poignant when it is our own constituents who express that passion.

Some of the people who have come to talk to me about the budget are sophisticated in financial matters, and their views have been placed with great amounts of accompanying detail. Other people speak from a life experience in work. Others reflect their association with community groups and agencies. Many speak as individuals who have been hurt about how things must change to save other people from the pain that they have endured.

Because we live in a relatively small geographical area in Halton Centre, or perhaps because economic and social influences are similar, there is a remarkable community of views, no matter what the individual condition. People in Halton Centre want Ontario to capture and retain control over its future financial capabilities. They do not want us to burden their children and grandchildren with debt levels that are intolerable.

People in Halton Centre want to see fair and equitable treatment of those who, either for a short-term or longer-term crisis are unable to share fully in our booming economy. While they support food banks and clothing exchanges with donations and work, they do not believe these ought to be a continuing part of our lives in Ontario.

People in Halton Centre are convinced that we must hone and plan our business and industrial expansion to take into account the changing world of work and trade. They know that economic prosperity is a spur to social development, and they want to be sure that there are

adequate roads, bridges and sewers to accommodate new and changing industries and residential areas. They want to be able to work in their home community more and more; and when they cannot do so, they want to be able to get to work in a safe way by a reliable transportation network.

People in my riding, like others in Ontario, are generous. They are willing to pay their fair share, not only for themselves but for their neighbours. In return, they want to see high standards in education, health care, business and technological development, social services, environmental programs, and in our basic infrastructure.

I want to trace with the members how this budget responds to the issues that my constituents tell me matter to them. Overall, that response is a very positive one.

People in Ontario have told me they are concerned with levels of government deficit. Whether it is an organized group like a chamber of commerce or individuals expressing concern about deficit levels, it is clearly on people's minds. I do not believe that all of that concern is a reflection of the federal government hype leading up to and following the federal budget. What it does reflect are fears that if the public sector borrows too much today for its day-to-day expenses, the next generation and the next one after that will not be able to clear themselves of an ongoing debt burden.

I thought I would take a moment to review the progress that Ontario has made under the budgetary planning of the Treasurer in his recent budgets in coping with our debt deficit load.

I should remind the House that in 1986 the deficit stood at \$2.6 billion; in 1987, that shrank to \$2.5 billion. Last year, the deficit fell further to \$1.5 billion, and in 1989, the Treasurer is forecasting a budgetary deficit of \$577 million—the lowest level since 1974.

Net cash requirements have similarly been reduced from the planned level of \$2.2 billion, which the Treasurer inherited in taking office in 1985, to the expectation of a net cash surplus of \$478 million in 1989-90. The members will note that this is an improvement of \$572 million from the interim estimates of 1988.

Under the Treasurer's stewardship, the province's operating position has also strengthened, to the point where it is the strongest in Ontario's history. From minus \$400 million in 1985, the operating position moved to a surplus of \$1.67 billion last year. For 1989, the Treasurer is forecasting a surplus in the operating account of \$2.69 billion, surpassing last year's progress by

\$1 billion. That surplus will mean that more than four fifths of our capital needs will be met from current revenues this year. It means that our day-to-day accounts are met from our revenue base.

The charts for every indicator tell the story of fiscal responsibility. We can see that the factor of public debt interest as a percentage of revenue has steadily declined from 12.4 per cent in 1985 to 10.5 per cent in the 1989 budget plan. I have spoken about the operating position. The debt as a share of the economy has decreased from 17.7 per cent in 1985 to 14.9 per cent in 1989. The number of months of revenue that would be required to pay the total debt has declined from 15 months in 1985 to 11.8 months in 1989. The debt as a percentage of revenue has declined from 12.4 per cent in 1985 to 10.5 per cent in 1989.

Every chart, every indicator is heading in the right direction. Every indicator underlines a responsible approach to our spending today and the effect that it will have on the next generation. With this fiscal record, we are the envy of most other provinces, and certainly of the federal government. I am confident that this record means a great deal to my constituents and that they will applaud the conscientious efforts that have been made to keep our performance in control.

## 1700

There are many new initiatives in the 1989 budget. It is not only a fiscally responsible document, but it is socially responsible as well. There is one particular area that I would like to highlight and that is the elimination of Ontario health insurance plan premiums beginning 1 January 1990. Members will recall that in 1985 our party told Ontarians that we intended to eliminate OHIP premiums. In the budget of that year, OHIP premiums were frozen. Between 1986 and 1988, more than 105,000 individuals and families were exempted from paying OHIP premiums. In addition, premium assistance for senior citizens and low-income families and individuals was enriched in each of those years, with a 1988 provincial cost of \$770 million.

The Social Assistance Review Committee report which was released last September also underlined the need to abolish premiums altogether. With the 1989 budget, the Treasurer has taken a bold new step in providing a billion-dollar benefit to individuals and families in 1990; \$550 million will be saved by people who would otherwise have been required to pay premiums, and an additional \$450 million will be realized in personal income tax reductions from

the elimination of personal income tax on taxable benefits.

Those are heady dollars, but in the budget lockup last week George Brett, who writes for the *Toronto Star*, worked with a computer model and calculated what this could mean to an individual family. He selected a two-income family with a \$50,000 total income; \$30,000 earned by one spouse and \$20,000 by the other. I would like to read how he calculated his model and what results he came up with. He reports in the *Toronto Star* of 21 May:

"It was assumed that this family has two children under seven in day care, for a total day care cost for the year of \$8,000. The computer was asked to produce numbers showing the benefit from eliminating both employer-paid and employee-paid OHIP premiums.

"In either case, the computer responded, this couple's income taxes would rise by \$49 in 1990 if you count just the one percentage point provincial tax increase.

"But including the OHIP saving, husband and wife—in the case of employee-paid OHIP premiums—would enjoy a net tax saving of \$665 in 1990 compared with the situation if they had paid the \$714 OHIP premiums themselves....

"But if the OHIP premium before 1990 was 100 per cent employer-paid, there would be a saving of \$274 for the family.

"This comes about because the dropping of OHIP premiums also results in the elimination of the \$714 taxable benefit (which it was assumed went to the \$30,000 earner).

"A smaller saving, but still worth while."

To any family, \$274 would look pretty good.

I did another analysis for a family from Halton Centre, married with one income earner, who was earning \$25,000. They have two school-aged children. Net of other taxes, they would still see a significant improvement. If they paid their own OHIP premiums, their savings would range from \$600 to \$650. If the employer paid their premiums, they could receive a \$150 to \$200 break on their tax bill.

George Brett concluded in his *Star* article, "If you list the pluses and the minuses, chances are you'll conclude you will be better off in 1990 because of this budget. And even if you aren't, there's an element of fairness in this financial blueprint for the next 12 months that may make the pill easier to swallow."

I believe that fairness has gone hand in hand with fiscal responsibility and that, frankly, that is what people in Ontario want. To put the funding of the health care system on a responsible, solid

basis, two new sources of funding are drawn on: first, a one-point increase in the personal income tax and second, an employer health levy.

That kind of a levy is not new to Canada. Indeed, Manitoba and Quebec have a similar approach to health care funding. Of course, the federal government utilizes this method for Canada pension plan and Unemployment Insurance Commission contributions.

In Ontario, for businesses with less than \$200,000 gross wages, salaries and other remuneration, there will be a rate of less than one per cent. I want to point out, particularly to my Conservative friends who are conspicuous by their absence, that this sector will comprise 75 per cent of Ontario employers.

Then, of course, there will be a graduated rate, to the maximum level, for companies with gross payrolls of over \$400,000. That rate will be less than two per cent. I want to advise the members that the highest rate will apply to about 15 per cent of Ontario's largest employers.

I want to compare that to the rate announced last week in Quebec in the provincial budget. In Quebec, their rate is 3.36 per cent, close to one and one half times that proposed for Ontario. In Manitoba, the levy is 2.25 per cent across the board.

As well, I think we should recognize that the employer contribution to health care is still lower, significantly lower, than private health care insurance in the United States. In 1989, it is estimated that a manufacturing company in the US pays on average about \$3,000 a year for each employee for health care coverage.

I believe we have an equity in the sharing of health care costs from the personal tax base and from corporate sources. As well, we are yet maintaining our competitive position vis-à-vis neighbouring jurisdictions which have a similar levy. Our health care costs remain at about 33 per cent of our budgetary expenditures at \$13.9 billion.

We have in Ontario, and we expect, one of the finest health care systems in the world. Our health care programs are envied, copied and studied by people from around the world. If the corporate clout of Lee Iacocca can be combined with the political will of Ted Kennedy and others to change the system in the United States, it should be noted that it is our system that they want to copy.

It strikes me that Ontario is looked to as a model, not simply because our system makes sense from a social justice point of view, but it is also clear that our system makes sense from an

economic and business point of view. By putting the funding of our system on a more rational basis, we will guarantee that our health care system will continue to provide the highest standards and will make economic and social sense as well.

Part of making sense is to provide funding for community and personal health programs so that we do not have to be continually dependent on an institutionalized setting for health care service. I know that it is not only people in Halton Centre, but people throughout the province who will welcome the funding initiatives included in this budget.

I would like to remind the members of them: \$349 million will be allocated to home care assistance, a 25 per cent increase over last year; \$108 million will be spent on community mental health programs, a 30 per cent increase over last year; and \$43 million for alcohol- and drug-dependency programs provide an 18 per cent increase over last year. In sum, \$1.3 billion will be spent in 1989 on community health programs.

Many of us are still reviewing the recent report of the Premier's Council on Health Strategy. It is clear that the budget initiatives are very much in line with their initial strategy document and with the latest report. If the experts are telling us that these are important things to do, I can tell the members that the people in Oakville, Burlington, Milton and Lowville are saying the same things.

They are also saying that the response in the budget to problems in our social assistance system was needed and is thoroughly welcomed. Just recently, some 125 people from my constituency, joined by a few from Burlington South, Oakville South and Halton North, met with me for lunch and to hear the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney) talk about the myths associated with our welfare recipients and the welfare system. There were business people, farmers, volunteers, people who receive social assistance and care givers at that meeting.

1710

If the Social Assistance Review Committee report was eloquent in written form about the profile of people who need help, the Minister of Community and Social Services was adamant about exploding the myths and bringing people to understand that the welfare bums could be them, given injury, given spousal death, given marriage breakdown, given disability, given industry decline, given circumstances that are difficult, if not impossible, to control.

It was clear that people in the room recognized that even with the \$4.3 billion which we spent

last year on community and social services, including \$2.2 billion on income maintenance programs, we were shortchanging our fellows. Too often, after the rent was paid, there was not enough money for food; too often, the system of penalties built into the way we deliver benefits meant that people could not afford to work or go back to school or out for training, and too often, children were going to school hungry or were not able to participate in school activities.

Just as members of all parties in the Legislature celebrated the social assistance initiatives included in the budget and the addition of \$415 million so that we can face and deal with some of these problems, so do my constituents celebrate.

I want to just remind the House how that money will be spent: \$120 million of the \$415 million will fund the six per cent average increase in benefits on 1 January 1990. The balance of the \$415 million will be directed at reforming social assistance, providing increases for children, redesign and enrichment of shelter benefits, support to employment and removal of disincentives to work.

The new funding addresses the major recommendations of the Social Assistance Review Committee. The reforms which the funding will drive represent a major economic as well as a social investment in people in the province, but on a personal level, they will make a difference to the way people live and to the way people see themselves. In association with the social assistance funding initiatives, we must also join our community agencies in celebrating the new \$88.8 million that will boost the salaries of some 15,000 people working in community agencies across the province.

In Halton, our agency work has been severely hampered because people working in the agencies could not afford to keep working, and although Mr Wright does not come from my riding, I wanted to draw to members' attention a quotation from David Wright, executive director of the Visiting Homemakers Association in Metro Toronto. He indicated that homemakers were leaving the profession to escape low wages and no benefits and he said, "It literally has been a situation where we were abusing people because of their caring qualities."

Mr Wright was pleased to see these initiatives and so am I. I will tell members that in Halton the four groups that will benefit from the new funding include visiting homemakers who go to the homes of the elderly, the disabled and those suffering from acute or chronic health problems; workers who assist children and adults with

developmental difficulties, such as group home workers; attendant care workers who provide care for people with severe physical disabilities, such as quadriplegics; and community agency staff working with young offenders and individuals who help victims of family violence in group homes, halfway houses and women's shelters.

These people are caring and dedicated. The work they do and the care they provide comes from the kind of a commitment that people in Halton Centre want to see. This budget initiative is one which will serve us all well.

There are other areas in which people in Halton Centre are anxious for change and the budget has addressed many of them. My constituency is a growth area, very much a part of the rapid expansion which has characterized the circle around Metro Toronto. For regional officials in Halton, it was an important step to be included in the greater Toronto area and a step that was sought. For Halton, it means that there will be involvement in the discussions of planning for growth, the ramifications of growth and the capital requirements to meet residential and industrial expansion needs.

There will be benefits of dialogue but there will also be a common recognition of problems which can be foreseen and, in partnership with the province, dealt with in a concerted and planned way. We know what those problems are: major highways at capacity from dawn to dusk, overcrowding in schools that draw from a new population which is family-oriented and the need for sewage and garbage disposal and transportation networks that will enable our new and existing industries to take their goods to market.

The user-pay portion of the GTA bargain has not settled lightly yet with Halton residents, but it certainly has with those who see the deterioration of roads proceeding at a faster pace than their original expectations because of the nature and volume of traffic and with those who want to be able to plan ahead rather than play catch-up ball later.

For us in Halton, the introduction of a new transportation capital program of \$2 billion will be vital. Indeed, the expansion and accelerated construction of Highway 403 will be of extreme practical value to us in Halton. When that construction is complete, pressure on the Queen Elizabeth Way and Highway 5 through Oakville and Burlington will be relieved from overcapacity to, in the case of the Queen Elizabeth Way, a reasonable traffic flow.

As well, additional GO service to Milton will provide necessary transportation to and from

work for many of my constituents as well as those of my colleague the member for Halton North (Mr Elliot). I can also guarantee that our municipalities in Halton will seek their share of the new \$200-million, four-year capital program for municipal arterial roads and highway connecting links. For our changing, evolving and growing area, these initiatives are needed.

Halton Centre is in transition. Not long ago it was bucolic and pastoral. Agriculture was a mainstay of the economy, and we still have an aggressive, progressive agricultural sector that will welcome the commitment to red meat stabilization and to the land stewardship program enhancements. The Ontario Farm-Start program providing assistance to new farmers was a program that Halton farmers particularly liked, and they used it. The injection of \$11 million into that program will assist a new generation to maintain a viable agricultural sector in my area. In Halton Centre there are new energies at work. This budget will go a long way to ensure that all of our assets are maximized.

I believe a budget is not a document that is put together in isolation. Before it is drafted, expertise and analysis are solicited from a broad range of groups and organizations representing a wide spectrum of our Ontario community. The Treasurer has opened up the budget process by requesting the involvement of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs. That committee received 56 written submissions and heard 39 oral presentations before making its report available to the Treasurer. Some 96 interest groups submitted prebudget briefs or met with the Treasurer, and I know that the internal analysis with the Treasurer and his officials is comprehensive, intensive and demanding.

I would like to congratulate the Treasurer and his officials for compiling and presenting budget papers on the expenditure profile of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, on municipal government finance and on public sector pension reform. These papers are clear, coherent and concise. I believe that they will serve as useful backgrounders for people who want to discuss these areas and that they will be appreciated by the people who read them.

This budget supports Ontario's competitive position while responding to those who are less able to help themselves. It is truly creative, controlled and compassionate. It carries the mark of a Liberal Treasurer. I will definitely be supporting this budget when the matter is placed before the House.

1720

**Mr Wildman:** I was listening over the electronic Hansard, as we call it here, to the member's comments. I found them very interesting and cogent. I am just wondering, though. She indicated that she represents a growth area in the province.

**Mr Pouliot:** GTA—a catchy phrase.

**Mr Wildman:** Yes, it is now called the greater Toronto area.

I think she was alluding to the importance of the proposals to allow for lot levies, which would enable some municipalities and I suppose school boards to gain additional revenue to assist them to provide capital construction for services that are required. I wondered if she might comment on how this is going to assist in any way those areas of the province which are not fortunate enough to be considered growth areas or part of the greater Toronto area.

I wonder if she might explain how municipalities or school boards in, say, northern Ontario or eastern Ontario that have deteriorating capital facilities can obtain assistance to renovate and rebuild when they do not have a lot of growth and there are not a lot of new lots being brought on stream which they could apply such levies to, particularly when we are considering that the money probably is not for new capital construction but rather for repairs and rebuilding.

**Mr Adams:** I have a very small point to make. I think the people of Halton Centre can be really proud of the fine speech they have just heard. It was in very marked contrast, I thought, to the previous speech we heard. It showed a very real grasp of the issues, a very real understanding of the implications of a budget of this quality.

The point I would like to make is that the members of the House who were here, including the Treasurer, listened with great attention to that speech, and I was disappointed that there was no member of the third party here to hear the words of wisdom of the member for Halton Centre (Mrs Sullivan).

**Mrs Sullivan:** To the member for Algoma (Mr Wildman), I did not refer to the lot levy proposals in my text, but I am pleased to do so in responding to his remarks.

Indeed, both of my school boards, the separate school board and the public school board in my area, are looking very positively and have given the Treasurer an indication of their support for those initiatives as well as for other initiatives that he has made available to school boards in growth areas, including the ability to look at new

and innovative funding methods involving, for example, the private sector.

I should mention to those who are concerned about school boards in areas outside of growth areas that the sources of funding are basically the same as they were before the budget. This new initiative responds to very serious problems in serious areas. There is a property tax base. There are provincial grant levels which are, for retrofitting and renovations, 75 per cent of the cost of the program. These initiatives are for capital, they are not for renovation, and I am sure the member understands that.

**M. Pouliot :** J'apprécie l'occasion qui m'est donnée, tout comme aux autres députés, de participer au débat concernant le budget qui a été déposé en Chambre la semaine dernière, le 17 mai, par l'honorable trésorier de l'Ontario (M. R. F. Nixon).

If the speech from the throne over the years has lost its significance, aside perhaps from select people choosing at some personal expense and greater public expense to make the journey to Toronto, the same cannot be said of the budget, perhaps because of the amiable guardian of the public purse. I guess seniority does that. You even acquire a distinctive walk that you equate with being solemn.

When you talk about a budget of some \$41 billion—it is not a secret to anyone that no government is all bad or all good. Certainly not. There were some good things in the budget. If standing order 24(b) is strictly adhered to, I may have the opportunity, with the understanding and blessing of this House, to talk about the good deeds in the last budget, such as the abolition of Ontario health insurance plan premiums. So what was in the accord, after the fact, mind you, gets—

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** It was not in the accord; it was a pure Liberal initiative.

**Mr Pouliot:** There will be no need to have it in any future accord, I can assure the Treasurer of that.

So the less fortunate will have access to the health system without going the route of premium assistance.

In regard to social assistance reform, bad news travels rather quickly in this sanctum, so maybe someone will take the responsibility on my behalf, and the same with our colleagues, and convey appreciation and congratulations to the Minister of Community and Social Services. He has done very well. In fact, it was very timely when yesterday he made an announcement of some supplementary \$88 million.

I think we are talking in terms of 15,000 people, the people who go beyond dedication. Time and time again they are, yes, foot soldiers, front-line workers, the people whose dedication at times borders on abuse. Their pay envelope has been enhanced. There is more money now to provide that essential service. It is a win-win situation. It is a measure whereby people save money.

When the government keeps people out of institutions, those good deeds do not go unnoticed by the opposition. I am happy that one does not have to shout loudly. For instance, the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr Riddell) was nixed in the last budget, but not so the Minister of Community and Social Services. So we, of course, agree and commend the government for a job well done. It is not what it should be, but it is a step in the right direction. The vision begins to have some substance; it is significant.

On the minimum wage, there was not much. Some cynic could say, "Twenty-five cents, a two-bit budget." No, no, no. Let's be fair. Twenty-five cents over a small sum, if you look at the percentage, is more than five per cent. So you are looking at \$5 per hour. I am sure that does not even get you across to McDonald's in Toronto; certainly not the McDonald's at the SkyDome. Consequently, it is one of the highest—and I am sure someone will correct me—if not the highest in the land. But again, Ontario and especially the greater Toronto area or GTA, which is the catchy phrase that has been thrown forth, can well afford to do those things.

There is always a dilemma. You have to raise money to provide essential services. We all readily acquiesce in the need for people to pay what should be a fair share, but I will get to that later. I just want to touch briefly on revenue. There are some changes here. One has to do with lifestyle. Again, we are talking about \$40 billion or \$41 billion. I see under "Tobacco Tax" in 1987-88 that it was \$639 million. The projected revenue on the sin tax, which is tobacco, is expected to only yield \$646 million. So it is not even keeping up with the rate of inflation.

1730

The tax on alcohol is under "Other Revenue" under "LCBO Profits." The member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr Black) will appreciate this. Lifestyle does that: people smoke less and they drink less. Consequently, the tax portion of both products is decreased. So much for sin taxes.

**Mr Black:** A step in the right direction.

**Mr Pouliot:** That is right indeed, a step in the right direction. So what the government has to do in this case is enhance its revenue. Where does it go to raise more taxes? Does it create another sin tax? It has already hit tobacco and alcohol. So what it does is tax wheels, literally. It turns the necessity of driving a car—

Interjections.

**Mr Pouliot:** Mr Speaker, one more time, all I am asking the members of the Liberal party for is an ounce of civility. It deals specifically with article 24(b) of the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly. If I am going to be interrupted every time I attempt to convey a message to the people of Ontario, more specifically the people of our great region, it simply does not make any sense.

Back to the sin tax. This is what we are talking about: a gasoline tax of one cent per litre effective when the budget was tabled last week, and a supplementary, another one cent per litre effective 1 January 1990. Members will recall that with the tabling of the federal budget an additional two cents a litre was asked for from the motorists of Ontario, so what we are talking about in a period of six months is nothing short of four cents per litre in the riding of Lake Nipigon where you drive longer distances, where a car is not a luxury. You do not have the alternatives such as a sophisticated public transit system. A car is an absolute necessity.

What you are looking at, on average, in the riding of Lake Nipigon, in northern Ontario, is that you are getting closer to 60 cents a litre, because in the past six months the federal and provincial governments of the day have imposed an additional four cents a litre. When you drive longer distances, and when you must warm up the cars because of the climatic conditions, it becomes indeed punitive.

It does very little to enhance tourism. In fact, you could say it turns tourism into a shoeshine industry. Not only are we asking people paying us the compliment of a visit to drive on substandard roads, we are also gouging them. We are asking them to pay close to 60 cents a litre.

But this does not suffice. The government has a budget of \$41 billion and what it does is tells people: "Every time you buy a pneumatic tire, we're getting you on the tax. Every time you buy a tire, we're going to sock it to you, an additional \$5 per tire." You are already paying eight per cent with the sales tax. Now the federal tax on manufacturing has gone up by 1.5 per cent, it is

going to work its way in. Additionally, what this government is saying is, "Now you're paying 13 per cent on every tire you buy." Sales tax is eight per cent and five dollars per tire. The tires get a little balder. It is an invitation to sin—sins of omission—because there is not much money left.

If you are to get a licence to drive the substandard roads of northern Ontario, it will cost you an additional three dollars per year just to get the permit that gives you the right, that is, a driver's licence. That is quite a substantial increase.

We are being nickel-and-dimed to death. That is what is happening. Then for every duplicate you need, every form, every test, every inquiry, the cost goes up in some cases by 250 per cent. It is not a big deal, but there is a style, method, approach that is regressive.

It goes on and on. In terms of producing revenues, you are looking at the base, what you call income tax, the provincial tax. It goes from 52 to 53 per cent—Not so long ago we were talking about 48 per cent—if you have a family with a federal taxable income. People get their T-4; it tells them how much they made last year, then they take the tax form and work it out. I think usually on page 4, it says, "Federal tax payable: \$10,000." That is something that the "middle class" can relate to.

It means that when you see 53 per cent of the base—and I think you find that at the bottom of page 2—last year if you were paying \$5,200, which is the provincial share, this year you would be paying \$5,300, so there is 100 bucks gone, 100 bucks less that you cannot throw into the economy, that this government has taken from your pocket. It is very regressive indeed. They show no mercy.

On the one hand, while I was complimenting the good deeds of the Ministry of Community and Social Services and its success with the last budget, I just want to bring to members' attention—and there are others—a point that is simply appalling and shocking: other taxation that will generate \$69 million. Last year it was only \$5 million.

Then the shocking news: \$1 million out of the \$69 million projected will come from a tax on vehicles for the disabled. It is right here. I hope the Treasurer will have the opportunity to say whether we are talking about taxing wheelchairs. For some people, it is a vehicle. I was really appalled and shocked, because it ran contradictory, most blatantly in the face of what I was led to believe and still believe is a reform concerning the less fortunate, that more money is available in

the budget. That is what it says right here under "Other Taxation:" \$1 million anticipated revenue for vehicles for the disabled. I find this rather surprising, and it is right in this book.

I try for an instant to put myself in the shoes of a civil servant in this province, or, if members wish, a teacher. I look at three reports that are condensed—they are summarized broadly—to serve the needs of a government.

We have already run through together the way the government systematically and deliberately took more money out of the pocket of the middle class, \$100 here through the sales tax and another \$150 to \$200 if you drive a vehicle in northern Ontario, so you are up to anywhere from \$200 to perhaps \$250.

It is not enough. If you are a teacher or a civil servant and if you have a combined fund of \$21 billion to administer—\$15 billion, a figure of some magnitude by any standard, for the teachers' pension. It is well-funded indeed, \$6 billion, with the civil service. It is not enough. They will go and pick up another one per cent. They call it the indexing plan. So, if you make \$35,000 or \$40,000, figures I can relate to, it speaks for itself. One per cent means an additional \$400 a year, when there really was no need for the government to pass legislation.

**1740**

**Mr Furlong:** It means 100 per cent index inflation.

**Hon Mr Conway:** For a fully indexed pension.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr M. C. Ray):** Order, please.

**Mr Pouliot:** The government has chosen to make a difference between the plans. The three studies will attest. We are talking about experts here, people who are most familiar with these kinds of endeavours, people who can come up with projections. They are telling us that both plans are well-funded, that there is significant money. We already went through the \$21 billion, a significant amount.

But for the next 50 years there is the guarantee on any projection that the plan will take care of itself. Of course, at the present rate, by the year 2007, the indexing portion could be in a deficit position, but the government did not wish to negotiate that. Instead, the government is informing us that "Yes, negotiations are going on, but in the meantime, we will arbitrarily take the position and we will go another \$300, \$400, in some cases \$500 less in your pocket, because you will be paying one per cent more." This is what

the government is saying; this is what the government will do.

The result of the budget and a great deal of hype was intended to appease the population, to prepare people. The proverbial scare tactics were employed; you blame anybody but yourselves. In this case, the federal government was blamed. It says that transfer payments, payments from the federal government to the province of Ontario, had decreased as a result of the last federal budget. Therefore, if the government of Ontario was to provide the same essential services, it would have no alternative but to increase taxes, so users of those services would pay in order to compensate.

"The Treasurer lied," said some politicians. The Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) did not refuse or play with figures, because I have it here in the budget. It says that revenues—that is, federal transfers, what the feds give back to the province—will go from \$4.9 billion, \$5 billion if you wish, to an amount surpassing \$5 billion. You cannot blame the neighbours for your own endeavours. This is systematic and this is deliberate.

In fact, and the words are not too strong, the government of Ontario has placed the middle class under a state of siege. When you look at the method here, it has every component that will incite a tax revolt. What this party was asking was simply that fairness be the order of the day, because the system was intended to be progressive, not regressive. The system was never meant to shift the fiscal responsibility from high earners to a consumer system where the consumers get picked left and right.

This government prides itself with role models. It tells us daily that it rewards risk-takers. When I first came here, I thought they were talking about hardrock miners; I thought they were talking about pulp workers. They were talking about the risk-takers on Bay Street.

I ask anyone if it is not normal for people to pay their fair share of taxes, that you do not have to use the Bahamas as a tax shelter, that the middle class can look at the future with a degree of confidence. When we look at the revenues, for every \$1 that comes in only 12 cents comes from the corporations, from the business community, only 12 cents on the dollar and they are the people who benefit the most.

We do not want to discourage those people. Everyone wishes, candidly, to wish somebody else well. But we are talking about fundamentals here. Why can they not pay their fair share. We have 80,000 companies not paying a cent of

income tax. Those are companies across this country, a good many are in Ontario, not paying one cent of tax on profit.

We have middle-class families in 1988, and it is getting worse—I am not the one saying this, the Fraser Institute says it, right here in black and white. For the money that you earn—I will get Ontario here—when federal taxes were counted in, provincial taxes, excise, amusement, municipal taxes, sin taxes, you started to work on 1 January and you gave everything to the government, in Ontario, until 15 June. That was in 1984.

In 1988, you are up to 6 July. For every dollar you work year round, carry your attaché case, your briefcase, whatever, your lunch pail, go to the factory, go to the mill, go to the car plant, you give everything to the government until you get to 6 July and then you start working for yourself. That is what it means. That is not simplified figures. That is what the Fraser Institute says.

Yet, people on the other side do not pay one cent. There are more than 3,000 people in this province who make \$50,000 a year and are not paying one penny of income tax. We do not even get an even start.

I will put it to members this way. By virtue of being born, if you happen to be "born the right way" and you inherit some money—if you are the middle class, you either inherit it, you marry it, or in my case, you forget it. Let's say you are the more fortunate. Some people—we do not have to divulge the findings or read from Mr Justice Evans about conflict of interest; it does not tell us much; it just gives us an indication—can relate to that.

The inheritance tax: there is no such thing here. We are one of the few jurisdictions in the world that has no such thing, so the wealth gets passed from one generation to the next. There is no tax on that. Capital gains is a mini-tax haven. We are seeing more and more, not less and less, of sheltering. The government does it for foundations, and people—some audiences—will applaud. The government does it for entertainment with tax rebates of 80 per cent to 90 per cent over a period of five, six, seven, eight years. Ask the consortium at the SkyDome. They will tell members how the game is played.

It is not a game for the middle class. There is a saturation with taxes to the point where there is nothing left in the left or right pocket, or very little. And the risk is as follows: when you have one per cent of the population, all of us in Canada put together in one big room, and you take one per cent and put all the money in another big

room right beside it and you tell that one per cent that six or seven years ago they would have both hands in the cookie jar in the other room to the tune of 30 per cent, and then it becomes 32 per cent and then it becomes 34 per cent.

On the eve of the last Depression, the threshold had been exceeded; surpassed. It was about one per cent owning 36 per cent of the money.

1750

It does not make sense, but then there are checks, thank heaven. Governments will not do it by design, because they are not committed. They do not see it that way; they do not see the fairness. They are afraid people are going to go away; they are going to vanish. They are going to take their mines and their trees under their arms and run away and live someplace else. It takes courage to be fair. The government has to break with what the order of the day has been. It has to see what is being done here. It works fairly well, but life is short. If we are going to have a bit of justice, this is the time to do it. Let them pay their share. It is not being done. It will really have to be addressed.

I wish that I could convey compliments to the government for addressing what is nine tenths of the overall land mass of this province: northern Ontario. Unfortunately, this budget does not lend itself to being complimented. I sympathize. The population in the riding of the Minister of Northern Development (Mr Fontaine) is decreasing. People are losing their jobs and going elsewhere. I think the minister will attest that in his riding he has lost some 3,000 to 4,000 northerners who had to move out because they were losing their jobs. The incentives are not there.

I attend many meetings, as most members do, of regional municipalities in northern Ontario, school boards and districts. People inevitably, if they are with a public or separate school board, are talking in terms of a double-digit tax levy. In other words, the rate of inflation is 4.6 per cent across the province. Those people are saying that in order to make ends meet, to keep the public's kids at school, they are going to have to raise taxes this year by 10 per cent, 11 per cent, and in some cases 15 per cent or 18 per cent.

Then one goes to the municipalities—they collect on behalf of both; they collect taxes on behalf of the school board as well—and they say: “For general purposes—to collect the garbage, to give some recreation and offer, of course, some fire protection, etc—we too have to raise taxes by

10 per cent, 11 per cent or 12 per cent.” So there is a double-digit taxation.

The government can come up with perhaps good intentions and tell us in the speech from the throne of the focus or attempt to focus on education. They say, “We are going to send the children to school earlier. The little ones now will go at four years old,” and everyone applauds, and why not? “Then they will stay longer.” But what the government does not say in the same breath and should really mention is that the portion that it pays for every dollar it costs for education, it used to pay 60 cents. Now it is down to 42 cents. So the government says, “You take the kids earlier; they will stay longer and it is going to cost more money. We will pass the legislation, but we will not pass the buck. We will pass it to the jurisdictions; they will collect the dollars.”

We are not talking about net wealth here, because we could impose a tax on that. I mentioned the inheritance tax. We are talking about a state of siege; the same style, the same methodology of going to the taxpayers feeling that there will never be saturation and that we must never underestimate the ability to pay more taxes. I think we are making a big mistake. People are going to start cutting back. The government may have a soft landing, but it is going to take some time, unless the government affects the fundamentals before it enters a “golden age.”

There is some readjustment that needs to be done. People will tell me: “In these cases, if you were to be specific in focus, it will not generate, it will scare more; it will have a countereffect. It will not generate more taxation.” But I say to those people, “It looks so darned good,” and the government is being fair. Then they can speak from the heart and then we can plan together, and we begin to relate to division. It is not only a mere word; it has to be done.

Back to northern Ontario—while I can still afford to drive—I see, from 1980, changes. Those are what took place in 1980. I am not going to read every year, but if the members will bear with me, I will go from 1980. I see “provincial highways capital construction program.” That is to build highways. Members should remember that we are nine tenths of the overall land mass of the province. Highways mean everything to us.

In 1980-81: \$238 million. The total provincial budget—that is important, because we can put “so much was spent then out of the budget.”

Then we go from 1981 to the other side, and it says that the provincial budget from 1980-81 to

1987-88 increased by 102 per cent. Provincial highways capital construction for the north increased by three per cent.

So, if the government was talking about real dollars, with the inflation factor there has been a substantial decrease, almost 50 per cent. The provincial budget doubles, and yet when it comes to building roads, capital expenditures, it does not even begin. Three per cent is insignificant indeed.

Last week I met someone from Florida in the riding of Lake Nipigon and he said, "What are all those signs that say, 'bump, bump, bump'?" I said, "They are to warn the motorists of the hazards, because we are not getting the kind of treatment we so rightly deserve." He said, "Where I come from, sir, we fix the bumps; we don't advertise them."

Under other circumstances, had the situation not been so tragic, I too would have laughed. I thought it was a good joke, but when you try to manoeuvre around potholes, when you constantly have to be an apologist, when you spend more than 50 per cent of your time defending the lack of service, you are not given to laughter.

If members go to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, people who represent their brothers and sisters up north covering such a wide region, they will talk to them about health care, the lack of services. And I heard the representative on the government side say "second to none." It is their sort of yuppie catchphrase. They refer to the GTA, which is the greater Toronto area. They mention services that in some cases we have never heard of, speech pathology, family doctors.

There is not one community that is not anxious—I should not say "possessed" or

"obsessed"—that is not concerned about where it will be tomorrow in terms of an essential service, even a doctor who just plain refers you, an audiologist, a physiotherapist. We constantly have problems attracting and, once we are lucky, retaining, keeping those people. When we tell the government that we need supplementary funding so that we can do things elsewhere, that we need its lobby, almost inevitably we have to wait in line.

The same holds true for forestry. I feel sorry for the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr Kerrio). He was the clear loser in this budget. He too was nixed. He too missed the boat. I do not know, with respect, if the minister was counting trees. The Minister of Agriculture and Food must have been counting sheep, because they were the losers, and it is unfortunate up north, where seven out of 10 jobs are the result of the forest industries.

Comme la chanson le dit si bien : « Que c'est triste, Venise ». Eh bien, que c'est triste, Venise quand on parle du budget provincial qui a été déposé le 17 mai, soit la semaine dernière. C'est avec peine, c'est avec un sens sincère qu'une injustice a été servie à la classe moyenne, celle qui représente 88 pour cent des revenus...

En fait, non seulement « Que c'est triste, Venise », mais ça devient de plus en plus triste ici en Ontario.

As I am about to adjourn the debate, it being close to six o'clock, I will have the opportunity tomorrow to perhaps wrap up on what is indeed an injustice.

On motion by Mr Pouliot, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 1801.

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS\*

(130 seats)

Second Session, 34th Parliament

**Lieutenant Governor: Hon Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC**

- 
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)  
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)  
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)  
 Beer, Charles (York North L)  
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)  
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)  
**Bradley, Hon James J.**, Minister of the Environment (St Catharines L)  
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)  
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)  
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)  
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)  
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)  
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)  
**Caplan, Hon Elinor**, Minister of Health (Oriole L)  
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)  
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)  
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)  
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)  
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)  
**Conway, Hon Sean G.**, Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)  
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)  
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)  
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)  
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)  
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)  
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)  
**Curling, Hon Alvin**, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)  
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)  
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St Catharines-Brock L)  
**Eakins, Hon John F.**, Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)  
**Edighoffer, Hon Hugh A.**, Speaker (Perth L)  
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)  
**Elston, Hon Murray J.**, Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Financial Institutions (Bruce L)  
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)  
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)  
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)  
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)  
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)  
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)  
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)  
**Fontaine, Hon René**, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)  
**Fulton, Hon Ed**, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)  
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)  
**Grandmaitre, Hon Bernard C.**, Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)  
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)  
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)  
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)  
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)  
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)  
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)  
**Hošek, Hon Chaviva**, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)  
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)  
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)  
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)  
 Kanter, Ron (St Andrew-St Patrick L)  
**Kerrio, Hon Vincent G.**, Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)  
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)  
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)  
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)  
**Kwinter, Hon Monte**, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)  
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)  
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)  
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)  
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)  
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 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)  
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)  
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)  
**Mancini, Hon Remo**, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)  
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)  
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)  
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)  
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)  
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)  
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)  
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)  
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)  
**McLeod, Hon Lyn**, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)  
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)

Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)  
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)  
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste Marie NDP)  
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)  
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)  
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)  
**Nixon, Hon Robert F.**, Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Brant-Haldimand L)  
**Oddie Munro, Hon Lily**, Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)  
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)  
**O'Neil, Hon Hugh P.**, Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)  
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)  
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)  
**Patten, Hon Richard**, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)  
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)  
**Peterson, Hon David R.**, Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)  
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)  
**Phillips, Hon Gerry**, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)  
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)  
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)  
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)  
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)  
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)  
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)  
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)  
**Ramsay, Hon David**, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)  
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-Walkerville L)  
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)  
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

**Riddell, Hon Jack**, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)  
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)  
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)  
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)  
**Scott, Hon Ian G.**, Attorney General (St George-St David L)  
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)  
**Smith, Hon E. Joan**, Solicitor General (London South L)  
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)  
**Sorbara, Hon Gregory S.**, Minister of Labour (York Centre L)  
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)  
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)  
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)  
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)  
**Sweeney, Hon John**, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)  
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)  
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)  
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)  
**Ward, Hon Christopher C.**, Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)  
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)  
**Wilson, Hon Mavis**, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)  
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)  
**Wong, Hon Robert C.**, Minister of Energy (Fort York L)  
**Wrye, Hon William**, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

\*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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No. 18

# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario



**Second Session, 34th Parliament**

Thursday, 25 May 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, 25 May 1989

The House met at 1000.

Prayers.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

#### NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Laughren moved resolution 7:

That, in the opinion of this House, recognizing that northern Ontario faces particular problems in the delivery of health care due in large part to the sparse population spread over great distances and the nature of the resource-based economy, the government of Ontario should immediately take special measures to provide needed health care to northerners, including but not limited to:

the creation of a medical school in the north providing training for a wide range of health professionals and with a focus on community and preventive care as a key way of dealing with the problems of recruitment and retention;

the provision of more community-based care and more nonphysician health care providers as a key way to deal with the problems of delivery of services;

more home care and chronic care resources to meet the challenge of an ageing population;

culturally appropriate delivery of services, particularly for francophones and natives; and

improvements to the medically necessary travel grants.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The member has up to 20 minutes to make his presentation and may reserve any portion of that 20 minutes for the windup.

**Mr Laughren:** I will indeed reserve some time to conclude when other members have had a chance to speak.

This resolution really comes from a task force the New Democratic Party caucus established about a year ago. In three different trips we travelled throughout all of northern Ontario. We had one trip in the northwest, one in the northeast through the corridor from North Bay up to Timmins and then another trip up through the Sault Ste Marie, Chapleau, Wawa and Sudbury part of the province. We did not go to just the

large communities; we went to the small communities as well.

We know, and even knew before we went there, that there is inadequate service in the north. We know that in Ontario as a whole costs are skyrocketing in health care and we also know that most of the health care dollars go to doctors and hospitals. We all demand more, all of us. There are no exceptions to that. We are all after more for our institutions and for a better health care system, but in this year, in the budget that was tabled just a week ago, the health budget is \$13.7 billion. That is fully one third of the entire provincial budget, up 10 per cent from a year ago.

In northern Ontario there are particular problems and there is a chronic crisis of lack of services, lack of doctors and lack of institutions. We not only have the problems that the south has; we have more problems than the south has in terms of health care. That is why we established our task force and visited all those communities. There were 200 groups and individuals that told us 200 different stories about their problems with health care in the north.

The hospitals are underfunded. There are entire communities without any doctors whatsoever. There are physicians in the larger centres, but they are carrying too heavy a workload. There is a lack of specialists all throughout the north: psychiatrists, speech pathologists, paediatricians, orthopaedic surgeons, gynaecologists. Quite frankly, the government has an underserved area program, but that is not working very well either. We all know that. The recruiting and retaining of doctors and all health professionals has been a problem in northern Ontario.

The Ontario Medical Association's special committee on northern affairs—by the way, I commend the association for striking that committee—identified the following shortages in northern Ontario as of the fall of 1987: no geriatricians, no rheumatologists except for one in Sudbury, only one haematologist, no specialist obstetrical services for 40,000 people in the Timiskaming area, no child and adolescent psychiatric inpatient services except in Sudbury and serious shortages of resident psychiatrists, general practitioner anaesthetists and family

doctors in towns that can support only one to three physicians. That was the report tabled by the OMA's special committee on northern affairs about a year ago.

There is also, all across the north, a marked lack of services for francophones in their language. I can recall someone coming before us and telling us about how difficult it is if you are a mental health worker, for example, or a psychiatrist and you are trying to counsel someone who is having very severe personal problems. How do you counsel that someone in a language other than his mother tongue? It puts an unbearable burden both on the patient and the person who is trying to deliver the service. That is not just with the francophones either, of course. That applies as well to our first citizens, the native people.

There are particular problems, and I am glad that my leader, the member for York South (Mr B. Rae), is here this morning, because he took part in the task force whenever he could and indeed made a special trip up to the James Bay communities and can tell members stories about the problems up there.

For example, at Fort Albany and Attawapiskat, both communities have hospitals but no resident physician. Each has a hospital but no doctor in those two communities. Doctors do come and visit, I think about every month or so, but there is no continuity. It is not always the same doctor. The health care delivery is not in the Cree language. That must put an unbearable burden on both parties. There is no ambulance service in those communities. Of course, all of this is in communities where the health of the people is poor to start with. There is much to be done for our first citizens in the delivery of health care.

In general, the northern health care problems are truly serious. This government has an option here. They can either continue to try to put out brushfires wherever they occur, where there is a doctor desperately needed in a community. They can crank up the underserved area program and put some pressure on and try to get somebody to go in for a while, but then in another community the same problem happens and the problem is not resolved, it is still there.

**1010**

The province has to take a different look at the way it delivers health care. I think there is an opportunity to use northern Ontario as a kind of model for the delivery of preventive health care and community-based health care. The population of northern Ontario is such that it could be done, it could be used as a model.

I know there are no simple, easy solutions to changing the health care system from one based on illness to one based on wellness. That is not an easy task, and anybody who thinks he can snap his fingers and turn that system around is kidding himself and whomever he is talking to as well.

We do know that at the present time the preventive health care budget, I think, is about 1.4 per cent of the total budget of the Ministry of Health, so we are really not putting enough into preventive health care. That simply has to change or we will for ever be throwing money into a bottomless pit. We will all be there demanding it as well, no exceptions. So that means we have to spend more money on preventive health care and on community-based health care, if in the long run we are going to turn the system around.

I would suggest that we start with a northern medical school. For a long time people have been talking about a northern medical school, but there has been resistance, both from the previous government and from the present government. As a matter of fact, it is just in the last year or so that the Ontario Medical Association has come around to supporting this concept, and now the association's special committee on northern affairs recommends as well that there be a medical school in northern Ontario.

I think there is growing recognition that this is what is needed. I cannot remember how many groups, but almost every group that came before us talked about the need for a northern medical school. There is a growing feeling in the north that this is necessary if we are going to attract doctors to the north and, just as important, keep them once they get there. That is not going to happen—it certainly has not happened and we have no reason to believe that it is going to happen—if we train all our doctors in southern Ontario.

There are, I believe, five medical schools in southern Ontario and none in northern Ontario. I do not think one is being parochial to argue that is fundamentally wrong in this province. There should be a medical school in northern Ontario. I would argue that the population of northern Ontario is roughly 750,000 people. That is a substantial population and can justify a medical school. For example, Saskatchewan has a medical school and Saskatchewan's population is just over one million. Newfoundland has a medical school and its population is not much over 500,000. It is not as big as northern Ontario in population.

We have those two jurisdictions and certainly nobody questions the need for a medical school

in those two provinces. Why then do we question the need for a medical school in northern Ontario? Is it cost? The doctors are going to be trained somewhere. Sure, it is expensive to build a medical school, but the people we would be training in the north we would not be training here, so it makes a great deal of sense to establish a medical school in northern Ontario.

I would argue as strongly as I could that if there is a medical school in northern Ontario, it should not be a carbon copy of the medical schools in southern Ontario. We do not want a carbon copy of what we have down in southern Ontario. I do not think that would make any sense whatsoever. I would urge that a medical school in the north have a different kind of curriculum, that it be a curriculum based on emphasizing preventive health care and community-based delivery of health care in northern Ontario.

Let's face it, the communities are spread farther apart and they are much smaller. It makes much more sense to have community-based health care in northern Ontario and it would make no sense to build a medical school in the north that was the same as the ones in the south. There is an opportunity here.

I talked earlier about a model for health care that was different from what we presently have, and if we use northern Ontario with its own medical school to help build the model based on community delivery of health care as well as preventive care, then I think we would be making a big step forward to building the kind of health care system we want for all of the province.

I know it is very difficult just to revamp the entire medical health care system in the province, but here is an opportunity to use the north as a model and strike out in some new areas in the delivery of health care. I suggest that the curriculum should emphasize not only community-based care and preventive care, but also the training of paramedics and paraprofessionals, nurse practitioners, for example, and community volunteers, and that we approach the delivery of health care differently than we have historically.

In such a northern medical school there would of course be emphasis on the delivery of services to francophones and natives, because that is a very serious gap in the health care system in this province. We should no longer tolerate inadequate services for our francophone population and for our first citizens. That is fundamentally wrong. I do not think it is going to change if we continue to train all of our doctors and other professionals in southern Ontario.

I also, as a result of our task force travelling in the north, want to say a few words about the travel grants. Members may recall that one of our colleagues, Jim Foulds from Port Arthur, fought a long and courageous battle to get travel grants. Then when the accord was struck between this party and the Liberals in 1985, the travel grants were part of that accord. That is why we have travel grants now.

It started out being travel expenses for 300 kilometres and now it is down to 250, but that does not solve a lot of the problems with people getting to regional health care centres. It gets some people to Toronto but it does not get people to health centres like Sudbury, the Sault or Thunder Bay, or even from northwestern Ontario to Winnipeg. That needs to be corrected; the 250 kilometres is too great a distance.

Second, travel companions' expenses are not covered if the patient is over the age of 18. Even if that person is terribly ill, blind or whatever, the travel grant does not cover an attendant going with him. I think that needs to be corrected.

Finally, the actual costs of travel and accommodation are not covered, just the travel costs based on a formula. Those three corrections need to be made to the northern Ontario travel grant.

We in northern Ontario do need an improved health care system. I am, and we are as a caucus, encouraging the government to look at it differently and to make it a different kind of health care system based on prevention, based on community-based delivery of health care and with culturally and linguistically appropriate services and, finally, more nonphysician health care providers.

Mr Speaker, I would like to reserve the balance of my time for after other members have had an opportunity to speak on this resolution.

**Mr Harris:** I am pleased to rise in support of the resolution put forward by the member for Nickel Belt (Mr Laughren). What I particularly like about the resolution is that he has given us some things to think about as legislators and individuals. I am certain that not everybody will agree 100 per cent with some of the methods the member might propose to solve what I think all of us would agree is a problem. On the other hand, I think there are a number of areas that the member has incorporated into the resolution that are difficult to find fault with, certainly in principle and in direction.

**1020**

I am particularly pleased that it is not a resolution saying: "We need more of the same in northern Ontario. You've got this in Toronto,

you've got this in London. We want one of those in northern Ontario." I want to say I congratulate the member for really thinking about what some of the problems are in northern Ontario and looking at not the "me too" syndrome, which is very often a cry we hear, not just from northern Ontario but from those who feel for one reason or another that they are slightly out of the mainstream, but indeed taking an approach to say we need something in northern Ontario to solve different problems. He has given us a number of areas and food for thought, and I appreciate that.

Having said that, I want to comment on a couple of them, particularly the medical school in the north. I could not agree with the member more that it would be an important step for us to have a medical school somewhere in northern Ontario. When the member was talking about the medical school in the north, he was talking about a different school, not paralleling one from southern Ontario but indeed focusing in that school on the particular areas of concern that we face in the north.

I want to expand on that and say that one of the difficulties I have had in dealing with our universities in northern Ontario is what I have always felt to be a rather narrow vision, saying, "We want to provide here what the University of Western Ontario provides so that our kids do not have to go to London. They can stay here. We want to be able to provide what Queen's University provides. We want to provide what the University of Toronto provides," whether that is North Bay, Nipissing University College, Laurentian University in Sudbury or the university in Thunder Bay talking.

I have always felt, and this is why I am intrigued with the member's comments as well, we ought not to be shooting for some form of education in northern Ontario that is exactly the same as what you can get somewhere else, with the sole reason being that our children will not have to leave home to get these programs.

I have looked at example after example in other jurisdictions, including examples in the United States. One of the things they do well is they have not felt that major universities have to be in major cities. Indeed, some of their most prestigious universities and campuses are totally off in an area that may be hundreds or thousands of miles from what one would consider to be mainstream communities. Yet we seem to have this narrow focus that if the institution is any good, if it is going to be excellent, if it is going to be doing something that is unique, world-class or

Canadian-class, it has to be in Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver.

I disagree with that and I think our institutions in the north should set their sights a little higher. I think this government has to have a view that there is no reason at all why northern Ontario university programs, and in this case the medical school, have to be limited to provide just for the needs of the north. In my view, that is the wrong approach. I think it sends out a signal about the north, how we feel about ourselves and how we are looked at and approached by big governments in Ottawa and Toronto.

I know I have digressed a tad, but I think it is important and it is something I believe strongly in. So I would expand on what the member has said in that, yes, we should be looking at a medical program in the north that would help solve some of our problems in the north, but we should be looking at it as well with a view to being the best and the most innovative medical school that would apply worldwide, that would not just train people to practise and stay in northern Ontario but that would indeed be the type of institution that would be recognized, so that if in Australia one faces similar situations with major centres and then some of the smaller areas and distances and what not, people would say: "Well, gee, you know, there is a school in northern Ontario that is absolutely the best in the world. That's where we should be going."

That part is important to me as well. I would suggest that we ought not to be limiting it to the medical school and just providing those services, but of course they would indeed be very beneficial to helping us in northern Ontario.

When the member talks about provision of more community-based care, I am delighted to hear him talk about preventive health care and the paraprofessionals, paramedics, nurse practitioners, which in my view are all areas that we should be promoting in northern Ontario, and being critical of some of us in the north, placing a little less emphasis on saying there are such-and-such specialists now in Toronto, Ottawa and London, so we want those specialists in Iroquois Falls, Sturgeon Falls, Sudbury and various areas.

Quite frankly, to me that is very expensive, impractical and not a good use of resources. In some very high specialty areas I would be content to make sure that northerners have equal access to those specialists, to that equipment and to those programs in other areas, but I would say to members that there is absolutely no reason why some of those specialty areas ought not to be in northern Ontario. When we look at the heart

program that is in Sudbury, to me there is no reason why patients in Toronto ought not to consider Sudbury as one of the premier locations where they ought to be looking at bypass surgery or specialties in those areas.

Our focus ought not to be—and we suffer from this in the north ourselves and, gosh knows, government from the political level on right through the entire bureaucracy suffers from it—that feeling of, “Well, that is sort of the outpost area, and sure, we will have a little bit of something there where they can prep them and send them to where the real medicine is practised.”

It is that type of philosophy and thinking that in my view must be broken if all of the people of this province are going to have an understanding of all the regions of the province, our area of northern Ontario and indeed other areas of this province, many of the rural areas of this province, where I understand they feel the same type of alienation from and lack of understanding of the major centres.

I wanted to add those thoughts, which will probably be a little different from some that others will add, put my perspective on to the motion and say to the member that I agree and wholeheartedly support the motion that he has put forward. I congratulate him obviously on francophones, on natives, on home care, chronic care, preventive medicine, but particularly for encouraging us to think a little bit in different areas.

**Mr Keyes:** It is a pleasure to speak on this resolution as well. The only problem I have is the lack of time to put forward all views that I would like to. I have also agreed even to share some of my time with the honourable member for Sudbury (Mr Campbell).

But I must mention that the crafting of the resolution is of course one that attempts to entrap members of the government side, because he puts so much in the resolution that is so excellent in its emphasis of francophone affairs, home care and community health care facilities, and all of that ends up coming forth with the one particular point of view that is very difficult for me to accept. That, of course, is the suggestion of providing a medical school in northern Ontario as a way of resolving some of the health care issues of the province.

1030

I want to just address that particular issue today: the medical school in the north. If we look at the World Health Organization, which is a recognized organization for setting some of the

health care standards, it suggests that there should be approximately one physician for every 600 residents in a jurisdiction. Just looking at Canada, we know we have about one physician for every 542 residents. That was back in 1987, and the ratio has decreased ever since. So we have more than met the standards of the World Health Organization.

Here in Ontario the ratio is one physician for every 469 people. So once again we have far exceeded any of the criteria established by the World Health Organization. Also, we know that the growth of physicians in Ontario is approximately five per cent a year, far in excess of population growth, which is about one per cent. We have some 19,000 doctors in Ontario today, so we know there are sufficient doctors being trained in Ontario medical schools to meet our requirements. The problem today, as it has been for many years, is one of distribution. We have to find a way to encourage more general practitioners to practise in rural and northern communities.

I want to review very quickly in my brief time the five programs that have worked fairly successfully in our ministry in this regard.

The first one is the northern medical specialist incentive program, which encourages medical specialists to establish practices in northern Ontario communities. These medical specialists are being recruited mainly for the five major northern areas: Timmins, Thunder Bay, Sault Ste Marie, Sudbury and North Bay.

The second program, which is perhaps the most important of all, is the underserved area program, which is committed to attracting physicians to the north. More than 800 doctors, dentists and other health care professionals now work in some 218 communities in the north which have been designated as underserved areas since 1969. Of those 800 doctors, 195 are specialists who have been recruited through the program I referred to earlier.

I think we must look at the attrition rate in the province. The attrition rate is less than five per cent a year, and that is excellent by any measure of standards. Many people stay some six years beyond their four years of incentive grants, which is quite significant indeed.

The third area, of course, is physician training in the north. Any statistic will show you that it is not the location of the school that matters; where the residency training takes place really determines where that person will want to practise. The ministry recognizes the need for residency training in order to practise in rural and remote Ontario. Currently, we know that residency

training in the north is carried out in Sioux Lookout by the University of Toronto; in Moose Factory by Queen's University, whose program I am very familiar with; in Sudbury by the University of Ottawa; and through McMaster University's northwestern Ontario medical program, based in Thunder Bay.

I know the Ministry of Health, in consultation with medical schools and associations, is examining other ways of trying to increase the exposure of medical school students and post-graduate clinical trainees to northern and rural practice. That is the significant part: not the location of the school but where they get their residency training. Therefore, it is the one I wish to emphasize.

We know that the northern health travel grant program does allow a lot of our residents to travel for treatment out of the province into Manitoba, southern Ontario or to other centres within the north by paying their travel costs. The air and land ambulance program transports patients from remote communities to northern health centres and to urban hospitals.

I wish I could take the time, but I promised it to the member for Sudbury, to talk about native issues, francophone issues and the many other incentives of this government to meet the very obvious need of adequate medical health care in the north. I urge the members to think seriously about the fact, as I said, that we do have enough doctors. We must continue to provide the innovative programs that will attract them to practise in northern Ontario.

I leave the rest of my time to the honourable member for Sudbury.

**Mr Morin-Strom:** I am pleased to be able to speak to this resolution, which deals with a most critical issue of concern to northerners: the health care system and the deficiencies we face with respect to it right across northern Ontario.

The lack of services and the lack of accessibility to existing health care in the north make Toronto, with all its problems of waiting lists for surgery, look like a health care paradise. This is not to diminish the crisis proportions of the problems in the health care system here in the south. It is to highlight the chronic seriousness of the difficulties faced by northerners.

Health care is a basic right. New Democrats have fought to ensure that Canadians had the best affordable and accessible system of care in the world. It was New Democrats, under the leadership of Tommy Douglas, who first established medicare in this country and Saskatche-

wan's example was a shining beacon that could not for ever be ignored.

Finally, 20 years later, in the 1960s, the federal government set up a country-wide medicare system. New Democrats in Ontario have persistently pressured the provincial government to provide health care to all its citizens. When we negotiated the accord with the Liberals in 1985 that ended 43 years of Tory rule here in Ontario, health care concerns were high on our list. A ban on extra billing by doctors was essential to our support of the new government. We finally achieved that ban in June 1986.

In that accord, the particular health care needs of northerners were also high on the list. New Democrats had worked for more services in the north, particularly community-based and paramedical, that would respond to the difficulties inherent in a small population dispersed over thousands of miles. Tory governments had failed to respond.

We were determined that if services were not coming to the people, then people should be able to go to those services. Jim Foulds, who was our member for Port Arthur, put forward a resolution in the Legislature in 1984 that medically necessary travel for northerners should be covered by the Ontario health insurance plan. That resolution had the support of 70 northern municipalities, but it did not have the support of the Tory government.

Again, in 1985, we drew up the accord with the Liberals, including the OHIP coverage of medically necessary travel. Northerners now have this coverage. However, moving people who required medical attention to the overcrowded southern—usually Toronto—facilities was never seen as more than a stopgap measure. One can plug the hole in the dam for only so long before the pressure causes it to burst.

New Democrats toured northern Ontario in 1984 and turned up a litany of problems caused by years of government neglect. The Liberal government has now had four years to come to grips with the problems. Northerners have yet to see marked change.

Northerners still need medical attention and treatment, just as those living in the more prosperous southern region of this province, and they are tired of being treated as second-class citizens. This is the message we are receiving and we have received on the tour of the north we have conducted over the past nine months. We have talked to the people and asked them how this government could possibly best meet their needs.

Our task force on northern health care has been a déjà vu experience: we have seen it before. We travelled through the northwest in June 1988. In September, we started in North Bay and continued along communities on Highway 11 to Kapuskasing. Earlier this year, we visited people in communities along Highway 17, from Terrace Bay to Sudbury, with detours to smaller towns like Wawa, Chapleau and Little Current.

Finally, in April, we visited native communities in the far north along the shores of James Bay. Northerners do have the ingenuity and the willingness to deal with problems in health care caused by a sparse population spread over long distances. What they do not have from this government are the necessary resources to deal with the matter effectively.

The New Democrats' northern health care task force heard many variations on this theme in the approximately 200 submissions we received in hearings right across the north. Native people want control of the administration of health care on their reserves. Franco-Ontarians need services to be provided in their own language.

#### 1040

Health care professionals, including specialists, general practitioners and therapists, could be attracted and retained in the north if there was a medical school in the north. Nurses, particularly nurse practitioners, could provide much-needed care in small communities. Many dedicated people are ready to deliver mental health services, home care and drug and alcohol treatment in the community, but are handcuffed by a lack of funds.

To free up the resources needed, there must be a change in the Liberals' attitude to health care. Priorities must shift from treatment of illness to promotion of wellness. Presenters to our task force underlined the millions of dollars that could be saved if people received care and help in their community, in their home and with their family.

The Ministry of Health's budget reflects the Liberals' lack of attention to community and preventive health care programs. In the latest fiscal year, expenditures on community health services were only five per cent of the health care budget. Despite major moves to deinstitutionalization, moneys spent on community mental health have not significantly increased and make up only two per cent of the total. Spending on public health care, which covers AIDS awareness programs, immunization and health promotion, was a paltry 1.5 per cent of the total. Even a small shift in spending would mean a large increase in community and public health pro-

grams. In travelling the great distances between communities across northern Ontario, it is obvious that community-based and preventive care are essential to the care of northerners.

Our task force also met with professionals, hospital staff, ambulance attendants, social service workers and volunteers, who do an incredible job on scant resources and would be the backbone of a delivery system that could meet the needs of northerners.

The government spends thousands of dollars in incentive grants to get medical professionals to practise in the north, but experience shows that few stay beyond their initial commitment. Using examples and statistics from Minnesota, Sweden and Finland, many presenters argued that the way to attract and keep medical professionals in the north is to train them there. Bob Rosehart, president of Lakehead University, and many others argued for a medical school and a full complement of training facilities in the north to train doctors and other specialists like speech/language pathologists and others.

The health task force heard over and over that the Ministry of Health's underserved area program is not getting the job done. Small communities end up competing with each other, one offering a free car, another a free house. Towns of 2,400 to 10,000 people cannot afford to subsidize physicians, who in many cases become the best-paid residents in their communities.

Whether in the field of mental health, speech/language pathology, audiology, midwifery, treatment of the multidisabled, age education or care for seniors, the task force was told that services had to be provided locally. Many creative community-based groups appeared before the task force. We are convinced that they could provide more cost-effective and appropriate service than delivery vehicles developed in the rarefied atmosphere of downtown Toronto offices of Health ministry officials.

The system of grants for medically necessary travel has not solved the problem of lack of services, particularly in small communities. For instance, most towns in the northwest are too close to Thunder Bay for residents to be eligible. More to the point, people do not want to be forced to travel when service could be provided in their own community.

Community health care would significantly reduce costs. Doctors appearing before our committee estimated that it costs \$400 a day to keep someone in a hospital.

At every stop, the task force was impressed by the dedication of health care givers. However, dedication does not put food on the table or pay the rent. There is something askew when a society cannot afford to pay more for those professionals who provide the care in the north.

Right across the north, we have heard expressions of concern and support for the recommendations that we have put forward in this resolution. I would call on all members of the Legislature to support us in the call for better health care facilities, training of health care professionals in northern Ontario and a community-based, local approach to solve our real health care needs right across northern Ontario.

**Mr J. M. Johnson:** The member for Cochrane South (Mr Pope) had intended to speak on this resolution, but in his absence, I would like to make a few comments.

First of all, I would like to start by congratulating the member for Nickel Belt for bringing forward this resolution. While I cannot speak of the major concerns they have in health care delivery in the north, I certainly can share many of the concerns that the member expresses about the vast distances, sparse population and problems relating to rural Ontario.

As I mentioned, they are not as great as the problems in the north, but we do have similar problems. We have hospitals that are several miles—15, 20 or 30 miles—from the needs of the people they serve, so there are problems that rural Ontario has that they do not have in the city. There are concerns that the member has expressed that we should address and I certainly can support many of those concerns.

I would certainly like to just highlight the one area that he mentions in his resolution: "More home care and chronic care resources to meet the challenge of an ageing population." In my part of the province, we also have an ageing population and we also have a tremendous need for home care and chronic care resources. Unfortunately, this government has been very slow in recognizing this major problem. The Victorian Order of Nurses and the Red Cross both appealed for assistance to be able to carry on to continue to serve the people they have served so well in the past.

In my riding of Wellington, the VON has provided an excellent service for many years. In fact, they are the only people who do provide that service and it keeps many of our seniors out of more costly institutional care such as nursing homes and certainly hospitals. That need is there

in my part of the province and I am sure it must exist in the north, as well.

If we do nothing else by supporting this resolution, we zero in on that very aspect of it and encourage this government to continue its support for the VON and the Red Cross. Instead of waiting for the opposition to force them into doing something to assist these organizations, they should be upfront and support them in the early part of the year and not wait until they are facing a deficit position. In fact, it would be my feeling that they should be putting more dollars into funding the home care program because it certainly will save money on much more costly care in the hospital environment. It would just make sense to spend pennies to save dollars. This government has not learned that yet. Hopefully, it will learn it very shortly or will pay the price for not learning it.

I hate to belabour a point, but I am offended by the government's insistence in calling our health care system accessible, quality health care. It is not.

**Mr Fleet:** Nonsense, Jack.

**Mr Callahan:** That doesn't sound like a speech that Alan Pope would make.

**Mr J. M. Johnson:** Then I will ask the members who follow me to address an issue that I will raise once more. At the Orthopaedic and Arthritic Hospital just across on Wellesley Street, the waiting list has grown from a matter of months to a matter of years since this government has taken power. The waiting list is now three years. If that is accessible, then I do not think the government members understand the meaning of the term.

Quality means individuals should have the opportunity to go to the doctor or hospital of their choice. When I raise this question of a three-year wait, I am told that the individuals, my constituents in the province, can go to another hospital. They have mentioned several. They have not quite started mentioning the hospitals in the United States, but I imagine that is their next suggestion.

If it is quality and it is accessible, then surely three years is not reasonable. Would anyone here deliberately place an individual in the position of having to wait three years for a hospital operation, for an operation for a knee replacement or a hip replacement, to let people suffer in pain? Is that accessible health care? I hate to be negative, but unfortunately this government needs a kick in the seat of its pants.

Having said that, I will stand down and allow other members from the north to participate in

this very meaningful resolution presented by my good friend and colleague the member for Nickel Belt. Thank you.

1050

**The Acting Speaker (Mr M. C. Ray):** Are there other participants? The member for Sudbury.

Interjections.

**The Acting Speaker:** Or do the government members not wish to listen to one of their own?

**Mr Campbell:** Mr Speaker, I am tempted with a line like that to temper my comments. I am, of course, as a northerner and as a Sudburian, pleased to rise to participate in the debate because I feel very strongly that we must, through a number of programs, deal with the particular health care issues in northern Ontario.

I was particularly interested when my friend the member for Wellington (Mr J. M. Johnson) mentioned the Wellesley Hospital in the context of northern health. I think that for the previous government, in some ways, that was the solution. I recall, as a member of the community in Sudbury, when there was a choice between Laurentian University in Sudbury and McMaster University for the last medical school that was built or operated in Ontario. Members know what the result was. The medical school went to McMaster. I would hope that is not perpetuated today by the third party.

I know my friend the member for Nickel Belt has a number of very excellent proposals in his resolution. The only problem I have specifically with the motion is the traditional concept of a medical school, because I think that, as my friend the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr Keyes) pointed out, it is not the same situation with a medical school as with residency programs, because residency programs in place in a community are the ones that very much deal with where the resident, then doctor, practises medicine. I can tell members by personal experience in Sudbury that that is, in fact, the evolution that is taking place.

I would like to take members back to 1979 when the Sudbury region faced a critical shortage of specialists in every single specialty; there were a number of specialist shortages. In 1979 we were also facing the ageing of specialists. The average age of specialists in 1979 was 55 years of age, which meant that we really only had a decade to plan before the specialists started to retire. We embarked on a program using the underserviced areas grant and putting it together with a region of Sudbury program, in co-

operation with the community and the hospitals, called the physician recruitment program.

All three sectors of the community, recognizing the kinds of things we had to do to attract more specialists to the medical community in Sudbury, put together this program. The program dealt with visiting the medical schools to recruit those doctors who were general practitioners, but hopefully we were also able to speak to those people training to be specialists in the medical schools. The program was fairly simple in that we were able to contact those medical schools, set up appointments and I, as chairman of regional health and social services at the time, was pleased to participate in that recruitment program. I was also pleased last year, in my new capacity, to visit again and help out in the physician recruitment program that is co-ordinated by the province but in which the regional municipality of Sudbury participates.

The situation in Sudbury has dramatically changed because we were able to get out and speak to individual physicians and specialists who were welcomed into the Sudbury community. We were able to put together the underserviced program grants for parts of our region that qualify, and we were able to put together the critical mass of a number of hospitals that can co-ordinate and work within a system of having the base of medical knowledge that those doctors require and the research facilities that they can gain access to, whether in Sudbury or building up linkages with other medical schools in the province.

It is an unfortunate fact that the previous government built all of its five medical schools in southern Ontario. It is one that I think is unfortunate, for as I said before, the last choice was made between a northern and a southern university to be part of that. But circumstances are changing to the point where we can and must develop, not only in Sudbury but in Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, Timmins and all of the other hospital areas that we have, to build that critical mass of research capability, of excellent facilities, so we can attract and keep those physicians and specialists that we are looking for.

The next items that I would like to deal with briefly, in the time my good friend the member for Kingston and The Islands has allowed me to speak, are two areas that I am particularly concerned about that are mentioned in the resolution; that is, the present work that is being done for francophone services, the recruitment program particularly for francophone physicians

and other health care professionals in the north. This is a major priority of the underserved area program of the Ministry of Health, so within the underserved area program, we have a further enhancement.

The new program will address long-term needs for francophone professionals. We know that in Sudbury again, this system is starting to work. We are starting to attract those francophone specialists, not only medical doctors but other specialists.

The purchase of seats in Quebec, for example: The first students of this program entered the courses in 1987 and will graduate in 1991, so there is a fuller development of this program. I am reminded of the other initiative that generally speaks to manpower needs in northern Ontario, and that is the northern health manpower committee and northern co-ordination. If you recall, the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan) announced on 17 November 1988 the establishment of the northern health manpower committee to help attract and retain health professionals in the north.

I think the committee, which is composed of northern representatives from health care associations, agencies and other professionals, should identify the need for doctors, allied health care professionals and health care services across northern Ontario, listing the specific requirements on a priority basis; identify geographical areas of greatest need for health care services; develop and maintain co-operative working relationships among doctors and allied health professionals, health care institutions, district health councils and health teaching facilities, and develop innovative approaches to retain health care professionals in the north.

**The Acting Speaker:** The time remaining will permit only the wrapup by the member for Nickel Belt.

1100

**Mr Laughren:** First, I would like to express my appreciation to those members who have engaged in this debate, particularly my colleague from Sault Ste Marie, and also the two members from the Conservative caucus, the member for Wellington and the member for Nipissing (Mr Harris). I appreciate not only their support but their kind remarks regarding the resolution.

I was somewhat taken aback by the comment of the member for Kingston and The Islands that this was a resolution designed to entrap government members. I cannot think of a more paranoid comment to come out of private members' hour than that.

For him to say that we have enough doctors in Ontario indicates a total lack of comprehension of the problem of health care in northern Ontario. It is a little frightening to think that member is, I believe, the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Health. If that is the attitude that permeates the Ministry of Health, then it is going to be a long time before we get improvements to the delivery of health care in northern Ontario. I was very saddened to hear that member's comments.

Besides, he says the programs in the north which they have put in place or which were already there are working well. If those programs are working well, why did we, when we had our task force across northern Ontario, have 200 submissions to us telling us in very graphic terms that it is bloody well not working well in northern Ontario? If members were more honest to themselves in this chamber, they would admit that as well.

I was very surprised to hear the member for Sudbury get up and parrot the views of the Ministry of Health. Surely to goodness, the member for Sudbury knows that northern Ontario boundaries are not totally enclosed within the regional municipality of Sudbury. Because Sudbury has a regional health centre, that does not mean all of northern Ontario has the kind of health service that the regional municipality of Sudbury has. I would have hoped the member for Sudbury understood that better than he apparently does.

We cannot compare services in a community like Chapleau or Wawa or Attawapiskat with the services in the regional municipality of Sudbury. There is no comparison. It is like comparing Sudbury to Toronto. It makes no sense at all to make that argument.

The argument that it is not important where the medical school is is ridiculous. Of course, if the medical school is in the north, then more people will be trained in the north, will take residency in the north and will practise in the north. That is common sense.

My colleague the member for Algoma (Mr Wildman) was in Sweden and saw the model there where they built a medical school in the north. The member for Carleton Place (Mr Morin) was there as well. I was wishing he would have spoken to the resolution, but I know there was a lot of competition for a limited amount of time.

It really makes no sense whatsoever to argue that because there are medical schools in southern Ontario, that means the problem of the distribution of doctors in northern Ontario is resolved. That is a ridiculous assumption. If it

were that simple, the problem would have been resolved by now.

To argue that the travel grant program is working well is also to ignore the reality. Fine, maybe the member for Sudbury's constituents are happy with the travel grant. That does not mean that people all across northern Ontario are happy with the travel grant. It is not servicing them well, and there need to be improvements. For the member for Sudbury and the member for Kingston and The Islands to get up and comment that everything is going just fine, that there is no problem with delivery of health care in the north, is downright silly.

I still have hopes that members of the government will think seriously when it comes time to vote on this resolution. There is nothing radical in the resolution. It is not designed to entrap any members of the assembly. All it is is a resolution calling for improvement in the delivery of health care to northern Ontario; suggesting that we use more community-based delivery systems and that we put a medical school in the north, based on a different model than those in the south, so that we train people who are paraprofessionals, who are trained in community-based and preventive care.

That is all it does. It is not something that is designed to embarrass the government. For members to think that if they vote for this resolution, they are going to embarrass their government, is downright silly.

I do not think there is anything in here that the Minister of Health would not agree with. I bet the Minister of Health would say, "Yes, those are appropriate goals for the delivery of health care in northern Ontario." If she would not say that, I wonder why. I have heard many of her pronouncements, and she agrees with a lot of this.

All I am saying to the members of the assembly is: Join with us in supporting this resolution.

#### HERITAGE DAY ACT, 1989

Mr McLean moved second reading of Bill 7, An Act respecting Heritage Day.

**Mr McLean:** The explanatory note to this bill is, "The purpose of the bill is to name the third Monday in the month of February 'Heritage Day' and to designate this day as a holiday in the province of Ontario."

"An Act respecting Heritage Day..."

"1. Where the third Monday in the month of February in any year is proclaimed a public holiday in a municipality, the name of the holiday shall be Heritage Day.

"2. Any act, regulation, proclamation, contract or document that refers to a public holiday on the third Monday in the month of February shall be deemed to refer to Heritage Day.

"3. This comes into force on the day it receives royal assent."

I welcome this opportunity to outline my private member's bill, Bill 7, An Act respecting Heritage Day. As members are no doubt aware, the purpose of this bill is to name the third Monday in the month of February Heritage Day and to designate it as a public holiday in Ontario.

Ontario's heritage is about our past, our present and our future, and that means it is about the kind of province and the quality of life we will all have in the future. We are a community in Ontario. It is a community of people from many generations, many countries and many cultures. This is a community of people we should deeply appreciate and celebrate on the third Monday of February each and every year. It is a legacy we must improve and enhance for our future.

When I speak of the community of people who make up this great province, I am referring to people whose roots lie in virtually every country on the face of the globe. For all our diverse origins, we have learned to act as a community, as a multicultural society where different people from different beliefs and from different cultures live, work and play together.

Heritage Day, the third Monday in February, is already widely celebrated across Canada unofficially since 1974. To give these celebrations a higher profile and greater visibility, Ontario Heritage Week was first introduced in 1986 and this has grown steadily in popularity over the past three years.

I believe that the third Monday in February should be designated Heritage Day and proclaimed a public holiday to increase awareness and appreciation of the social and economic importance of Ontario's multifaceted heritage resources. This day could be used to encourage a broad public participation in heritage preservation, protection and promotion. It could also be a day to support and recognize the efforts of groups, individuals, and the many organizations involved in heritage activities in Ontario.

The current Heritage Week is largely a community-based celebration with the majority of events and activities organized by local groups such as historical societies, architectural conservation advisory committees, community museums, archives, heritage organizations, schools and libraries, to name but a few. These groups deserve our appreciation, support and recogni-

tion for their efforts to keep our heritage in the public eye, for giving our heritage a higher profile and for making us all aware of our roots.

When I talk about designating the third Monday in February as Heritage Day and designating it as a public holiday, I am not saying we would be recognizing the same heritage in each and every community in Ontario; far from it. As I said earlier, we are a community in Ontario of many people, many generations and many cultures. Remember that our roots lie in virtually every country in the world, which means that different communities would be celebrating a different heritage and diverse origins that have brought us all together to act as a common community in Ontario.

1110

Some communities could celebrate their Menonite heritage, some communities could celebrate their Scottish heritage, other communities could celebrate their French heritage, others could celebrate their English heritage, while still others could celebrate their native heritage. The list goes on and on with too many heritage roots to mention in the limited time I have here today to discuss my private member's bill, Bill 7.

How would we celebrate our roots if members join with me in passing Bill 7? How could we make proper use of the third Monday in February if it is designated as Heritage Day and proclaimed a public holiday in Ontario?

Some communities might wish to stage heritage walks to enable the public to view historical buildings, sites or documents that have played such a vital role in our past. There could be heritage displays and seminars. Bus tours of historical routes and military establishment could be organized. Heritage arts, crafts and folk displays could be staged. Schools could organize heritage quizzes and poster contests. Businesses could become involved by having window displays in their establishments. Once again, the list is endless.

Events like these I have mentioned would involve everybody in the community, whether they are young or elderly, whether they are involved in business, industry, education or government. All of us could play a role in celebrating our heritage in Ontario.

The fair, equitable climate we now know in Ontario is a direct result of the leadership and role models given by all levels of government and the sincerity and common decency of all citizens of this great province, but it would certainly be naïve of me to suggest that our multicultural

society has progressed in constant harmony or to ignore the blemishes that exist today.

I believe that if we celebrate a Heritage Day on the third Monday in February as a public holiday, we will be providing our citizens with an ideal opportunity to learn about their brothers and sisters who live next door, in the nearby community and adjoining townships who may have a different culture or heritage than themselves.

I cannot think of a better method of improving the multicultural composition of our society, of ending discrimination in employment practices or in renting affordable housing. Can members think of a better method for making each and every one of us more sensitive to the different traditions and values of our immigrant, ethnic or native brothers and sisters in this province?

But Heritage Day celebrations would not be restricted to only recognizing the role and accomplishments of the many diverse cultural groups in this province. The day could be used in a particular community to focus increased public attention on the role and many accomplishments of the many individuals in the history of Ontario.

For example, some communities may wish to acknowledge the many accomplishments and contributions of a man who was elected to the House of Commons in 1790 and appointed, on 12 September 1791, as the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. Of course, I am referring to John Graves Simcoe who convened the first Legislative Assembly in our province and established York, which we now call Toronto, as the capital of Ontario.

That is only one example of a person who left his or her mark on our history. There are many more we could recognize on Heritage Day, such as Samuel de Champlain, Joseph Brant, Laura Secord, Alexander Graham Bell, Chief Pontiac, Chief Tecumseh and Dr Norman Bethune. As members can see from this extremely short list of men and women who played a role in society or history within or outside the boundaries of Ontario, there are numerous individuals as well as cultural groups that deserve our attention on Heritage Day.

I believe it is important for us to set aside, as I said, that third Monday in February as a day for all of us to reflect on our heritage. We should share with and communicate to groups and individuals a new vision of heritage in Ontario which emphasizes broadened definitions and new processes.

We must support and encourage groups and individuals in promoting their heritage activities

and interests throughout Ontario. We must increase public awareness and involvement in heritage conservation and development of activities among nontraditional supporters in the private sector.

The story of Ontario is one of growth and change. It is a story of the coming together of peoples of diverse backgrounds, beliefs and customs, of the effects of this encounter on them and on the land where they choose to anchor their dream of a better life. Because the land was here long before the people who came to settle it, it is with the land that the province's story begins, but it is with the people of Ontario that this province's story continues.

If we stand back and view events in their larger context, the seemingly haphazard course of history begins to take shape and to take on form and coherence. From this wider perspective, the province can be seen as an edifice built by the various groups whose presence today gives it its unique and vital character. This edifice rests on the cultural traditions of Ontario's native peoples. They were the original guardians of this land and its riches.

At the base of this edifice and interspersed throughout its structure are the building blocks of the province's other two founding peoples, the French and the British. Their presence is acknowledged in many of our laws and customs, political and cultural institutions and the province's two dominant languages.

The British and French also constitute the two largest groups in this province. Today almost 53 per cent of Ontario's population is of British origin. Close to 10 per cent claims French ancestry. The building blocks of the edifice that we call Ontario continue onward and upward with German, Dutch and black immigrants, Ukrainians, Poles, Hungarians, Russians and Jews from central and eastern Europe, and continue on with Italians, Greeks, Portuguese, Czechs, Estonians, Lithuanians, Latvians, Asians and groups of immigrants from the West Indies and Latin America.

We all know that building blocks piled one on top of another will sooner or later tumble to the ground unless they are cemented together in a harmonious and cohesive manner. That cement is a common vision of a society founded on the principles of freedom, peace and order.

In conclusion, I believe that an annual Heritage Day on the third Monday of February would increase awareness of the scope and value of our heritage and cultural resources and encourage participants to preserve, promote,

protect and develop their diverse heritage and cultures. As I said earlier, Ontario's heritage is about our past, our present and our future. That means it is about the kind of province and the quality of life we will all have in the future. The community of many people from many generations, countries and cultures that we are so fortunate to have in Ontario is a legacy we must improve and enhance for the benefit of our future and the future of our children.

I will reserve the balance of my time for the wrapup.

**Mr Fleet:** I would first like to congratulate the member for Simcoe East on this bill. I am obviously going to support it. I think it is an excellent advance. In fact, as the member well knows, I have introduced legislation in this House of a similar nature which goes rather further in terms of a Heritage Day.

I will refer both to Bill 7, which is what we are debating today, and Bill 9, which I had introduced. I had actually introduced Bill 6 originally, immediately prior to the member for Simcoe East, but I subsequently introduced Bill 9, which has a technical improvement on a point not particularly relevant to today's proceedings. I am sure that will assist members as we go through.

The provision in Bill 7—and there are some rather important differences between the two bills—really seeks to take advantage of a provision in the Municipal Act, section 211, which permits municipalities to declare a public holiday. It permits the declaration of a holiday, in essence without any restriction.

**1120**

This Bill 7 would provide that that would become Heritage Day, and as the member for Simcoe East has already related, this is further to an earlier proposal he had calling it Simcoe Day. I think the reasons for expanding to a Heritage Day have been expanded upon in an excellent fashion in terms of the heritage of many different people across all of Ontario. An opportunity to celebrate is really the heart of the proposal of Heritage Day.

What Bill 9 would do, quite frankly, is provide a holiday, a public holiday for people and a true reward for the working men and women of this province.

I would like to quote from a draft paper of the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues: "Public holidays are a basic standard which improve working and living conditions, contribute to improved family life and may lead to increased productivity."

I submit that is entirely accurate, it is well put and it is exactly why a new public holiday is an appropriate advancement in our society. For a variety of reasons, the most logical time for that to occur is in the third week of February. That is already Heritage Week in Ontario and the first Monday is in fact an appropriate time.

As I indicated when I introduced my legislation, a public holiday to celebrate our heritage is an idea whose time has come. In fact, this is a matter which has been the subject of public discussion since at least 1973. At that time, the Heritage Canada Foundation was advancing this as an idea to Ottawa, as a matter of fact. When asked why this was being proposed—and I will quote because I do not think I can provide a better or more succinct explanation—they replied:

“Because a holiday makes people sit up and take notice. It also provides a chance for celebration; in this case, for a celebration of our history. Our country has a rich cultural past. Our homes, buildings and streetscapes are living history lessons, symbols of that past. Their preservation contributes to the feeling of identity and continuity in this diverse nation. It tells us something about our roots. It reminds us of who we are.”

I think that is exactly the kind of feeling we would wish to evoke on a new public holiday in February, a time when people frequently experience the midwinter blahs. It is an opportunity to turn a negative feeling into a very positive feeling.

The experience in terms of other legislation has been primarily directed, actually, in the Parliament of Canada. In 1973, following the submissions by the Heritage Canada Foundation, there was a standing committee on justice and legal affairs which studied the issue, proposed a Heritage Day and suggested in particular that the focal points for the first three years of celebration of Heritage Day be the Canadian flag, which as all members would be aware, was proclaimed on 15 February 1965; in the second year Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, and in the third year, to celebrate the importance and the contribution of Canada's native peoples, the first citizens of our country.

I would suggest that in the fourth year, if not earlier, we would now want to celebrate the development and installation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, another very important element of our heritage.

In fact, the bill I propose, Bill 9, would permit the government of Ontario by a proclamation to determine which theme of heritage would be

celebrated in each year, and there are a variety of other appropriate themes, a number of which were touched on with eloquence by the member for Simcoe East.

The kinds of support and the rationale for a public holiday at this time are not limited to simply the cultural considerations. Again, I would like to return to a draft discussion paper on changes to the Employment Standards Act from April 1989 from the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues. It indicates that in 1984, almost 56 per cent of private sector employees and over 76 per cent of unionized employees had 11 or more paid holidays each year.

Currently, as members will be aware, there are eight public holidays in Ontario: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day—which of course we have just celebrated—Canada Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. This government has added Boxing Day as a public holiday and that again assists workers across Ontario. I think it also improves the life of the people in management. It confirms their right to have a public holiday, but it is only eight days. It is quite clear that the standard now ought to be more. This is also why, in my bill, I proposed that the Civic Holiday be a public holiday. It is not one currently, which I found quite surprising, and members of the public would be quite surprised to learn it is not a public holiday.

The problem with having both the Civic Holiday as a municipal option, and in essence Bill 7 that we are now debating also really only perpetuating a civic option, is that if a proclamation is provided by the municipality, it provides a holiday only for civic employees. If the municipality goes further and passes a bylaw, it gives the shops, as defined by the municipality, the obligation to close, but it does not entitle those workers in those shops to get paid for a paid holiday. That surely is not an adequate resolution to the problem and it does not deal with the reality that the holidays are being established by collective agreements or that this is what is setting the standard. I think it is an appropriate time for this Legislature to move forward to set a standard to provide a holiday, a Heritage Day.

I would also like to point out that there is support in other areas for having a holiday in mid-February. In 1982, a committee of the Ministry of Education in Ontario indicated that a break was needed for students. I am quoting again from the report. It said, referring to the period between January and the midwinter break in March, “This period is the most difficult and

demanding for pupils and teachers." They recommended that it either be called Heritage Day or Constitution Day, on the third Monday in February.

There is good reason, for educational purposes; by reason of our employment standards, in terms of working and living conditions and of enjoying the richness of life in Ontario; and for the purpose of advancing the celebration of our diversity but also the things that we share in common. That, indeed, will make us a stronger nation, and in a world which is global in its nature, it is important that we focus on our links to the past, because they are also links to our future and to our present neighbours around the world.

I think any member of this Legislature would agree with me that this would be a significant advance. I encourage all members to support Bill 7. Again, I congratulate the member for Simcoe East. It is an excellent initiative. It is something that would help the people of our province and again I urge all members to support this, and also Bill 9 when we get the chance.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** I am pleased to join in this debate on the continuing saga of Heritage Day, which is an idea whose time has come and gone and never really found its way into law, for some reason or other. It has been such an obvious thing that Canadians, of all people, should have a holiday in February to help us survive our winters. It is one of the greatest gaps in social policy that I can imagine any society having. So any move in that direction is welcome and I support it.

However, I cannot believe that the methodology used by the member for Simcoe East is one that does not move it along faster. I read the explanatory note and I noticed that it is to name the third Monday of the month of February Heritage Day. It says it is to designate this day as a holiday in Ontario. Then I read the lengthy bill that is before us here, in the 10 or 12 lines that we have, and all it does is say that it will be called Heritage Day if a municipality proclaims it Heritage Day. It does not make it a public holiday at all, but says that when a public holiday is made, if it is ever made in Ontario, as I gather Bill 9 would do, at that point it shall be called Heritage Day.

1130

I say to myself, what we have here is a philosophical treatise on the importance of the name. The name is the thing rather than the reality of actually having a holiday. I would much rather the member had come forward with

a bill which had actually given us the holiday and we will name the thing later, rather than giving me the name today and still not giving me that third Monday in February as a break from those late winter blahs that afflict so many of us. For the members from the north beside me here, they know they are at that point halfway through the winter; it is an important date to recognize the fact that summer may come some day again to northern Ontario.

I would love to hear, in the response time by the member, why he has chosen this particular route to deal with Heritage Day. Is it his intention that we delay our movement towards having this extra public holiday even longer, or what was his reason?

I just want to talk a little about why we need the holiday, other than the obvious winter break. The member for High Park-Swansea (Mr Fleet), who spoke previously, has referred to some of the issues. Presently, organized workers and managerial types in the province get 11 or 12 days of holidays recognized throughout the year in addition to paid vacations of, on average, approximately four weeks in Ontario at this stage. But if you look at our laws for the general public, and there are a lot of those unorganized workers in our province, they are limited to two weeks of holidays under the Employment Standards Act. That is all an employer in our society has to provide. Then they get approximately eight days of recognized statutory holidays in Ontario.

If you compare that with jurisdictions like France, where the argument now is whether they shall move from five weeks to six weeks of paid holidays as law for all their citizens—in France, of course, the month of August is the month of holidays—you say to yourself, "Here we are, an advanced society, and this is the best we can do for our average working people?" especially those people who do not have power mechanisms, whether it is a professional society or a union, to work for them. Are we not a little bit in the Dark Ages? The idea of adding one extra day of paid holiday in the winter as a leave for people is something I think we can all recognize as important.

**Mr Fleet:** Bill 9 proposes two holidays.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** Yes, I notice that Bill 9 proposes two holidays. Unfortunately, I am not allowed to debate Bill 9 or I would be happy to move on to why I would love to see other things appended to it in terms of employment standards amendments.

However, I think it is important as well to talk about the importance of the name and the importance of the reason in terms of the nature of the celebration we would have on this holiday, that is, calling it Heritage Day. As the member rightfully says, heritage speaks to our past. I think that is accurate. It also speaks to the roots for our future and the nature of our country as it grows.

I would like to speak about the importance of that celebration from a number of aspects. The multicultural aspect is one I would like to come to later, as with the other cultural issues that are around it. I would rather speak a little more precisely as well to some issues of the economy of Canada and our particular heritage, which I see in great danger of erosion these days, and some real need of celebration.

I would like to refer, if I might, to a few things my colleague the member for Hamilton West (Mr Allen) wrote late last year in a column in the Hamilton Journal and Hamilton Mountain News about his views of our cultural heritage as it relates to our economy. He made the remarkable point, of course, that we are so different from the United States in the nature of how our economies developed and the linkages between government and private enterprise to make our country function because of its enormity and yet its sparse population. He rightfully alludes in his article to the fact that we had the only transcontinental railway in all of North America that actually did not go bankrupt, because it was done in co-operation with our federal government at the time. The national dream, as we know, was based around that link that was forged.

As a person who comes from western Canada, the member for Hamilton West wrote very movingly as well, I thought, about our development of co-operative traditions in our country in terms of the development of the wheat co-ops, of course, in the west, but also here in Ontario where our agricultural communities especially developed this methodology of coming together as a community as part of our heritage of working together in a very tough country in which to survive economically and as a result developing some very different approaches to working economically as part of our economic culture than did our neighbours to the south.

I think it is important to say that has grown into food co-operatives, housing co-operatives and other kinds of notions which are very much the fabric of what we do now. Whether it goes into health care and the idea of community clinics that are run by community boards or others, that ethic

of co-operation is incredibly important to us. I hope when we start talking about culture, we do not restrict ourselves just to the notions of songs and dances and traditions of that sort from various ethnic communities, but rather that we look at some of the other fundamental fabric of our country.

I think it is a wonderful time and a desperate time for us to celebrate that, because of what is happening with free trade and what I see as a move at the national level to ignore what we have accomplished, to say that we should sell off every crown corporation we have that symbolizes that heritage of connection between business and government in terms of the development of this country, that talks in sort of American republican terms about what the economy is and denies so much of what is our fabric.

I would also say that this day will provide us with the opportunity in this province to celebrate, I hope, our native people's role in our society in very profound ways. The member for Algoma (Mr Wildman) was saying that he wondered if maybe we should call this Tecumseh-Brant Day rather than Heritage Day and make a major statement about the importance of that community to us and our society. It is so undervalued in social and economic policy, as it has been in a very unfortunate way in our country over the years, that if we start to talk about heritage, let's talk about that central nature of our province and country which is so different from other countries.

Then of course there is the bilingual nature of our founding communities in this province. I say so, although the member for Markham (Mr Cousens) is not here to jump on me for such a notion. I think it gives us a real time and place to focus our celebration of the French fact in Ontario, as it does the multicultural community. I am reminded that in the city of Toronto there are some 26 languages recognized and used in publication in that place. That is the new reality of our nation. This would be a wonderful day to be able to celebrate that reality in our future, not just our past, as a country.

I wish we could move along to actually having the day established as a holiday. Then this member's bill to name it Heritage Day would be the appropriate vehicle and we could start to set up the mechanisms to make sure those various communities and our economic philosophy are well established and well presented on that Heritage Day for the years to come.

**Mrs Marland:** I am happy to rise today and speak in support of Bill 7, the private bill of my

colleague the member for Simcoe East. I may just say at the outset that I am happy to be able to stand and support a bill with this number. I certainly was not able to vote in favour of the last Bill 7 that came before this Legislature.

In speaking in support of this act regarding Heritage Day, I want at the outset to congratulate the member for Simcoe East. I also want to say that I am somewhat astounded to hear the comments this morning about why we should support this bill, those comments particularly that pertain to perhaps no better reason than that of having a vacation day, an official statutory holiday to beat the midwinter blahs.

I think it is kind of ridiculous for members in this Legislature to stand and say that we should have a holiday in the midwinter in order to deal with our climate, and that is the reason to support this bill. I am quite sure that the integrity and the intent behind the private bill of the member for Simcoe East to establish a Heritage Day officially in this province has nothing whatsoever to do with the fact that Ontario needs another statutory day, nor that the holiday should happen to take place in the winter when the climate is a little unacceptable for some people.

1140

I want to set aside any association of my comments with the remarks from the member for High Park-Swansea or the member for Scarborough West (Mr R. F. Johnston) who think that is a pretty good reason to have a Heritage Day. In fact, all the wonderful reasons that we should have an official Heritage Day in Canada and, indeed, in Ontario are the reasons that I know the three parties in this Legislature today will support this bill.

The fact that we have the kind of province that we have in Ontario, the fact that we are indeed the premier province in Canada has everything to do with our heritage and nothing to do with the winter climate. I cannot help but refer to what I believe is the very essence of our heritage in Ontario; it is an essence that transcends all ethnic background and all ethnic heritage because it is the essence of religion.

Fortunately for Ontario and indeed our country, the people who came 100 and 200 years ago to this country brought with them a religion. It did not matter what country they came from; they brought with them a Christian heritage. If there is one area of major concern that I have about the future direction of this province, it is indeed the fact that our Christian heritage seems to be going out the window. Since those people with a Christian heritage in Ontario built this province,

and indeed this country, because of the strong roots they had in their faith, I have a very real concern. Whether they were Catholics or Protestants who came to this country and had the courage and the faith to work hard and to build what we now have inherited, they were Christians.

I think that today we experience in Ontario what is, in particular, a double standard. I can quote as an example this Legislature, in which every day that the House is sitting we recite the Lord's Prayer. The double standard develops when the schools of this province, which the Liberal government directs from this Legislature, are now told by the Liberal Minister of Education (Mr Ward) not to solely use the Lord's Prayer any more. It begs the question of what our heritage is and what we believe and see as our heritage in this Legislature—

**Mr Fleet:** It was the court that ordered us to do it, the Supreme Court of Ontario.

**Mr Carrothers:** You're distorting the issues. Ridiculous. Useless discussion.

**Mr Dietsch:** You're being misleading. That's disgusting.

**Mrs Marland:** The fact remains that we do have different standards within this Legislature and without. Because it hits a nerve to make that comment and because I am now having interjections, particularly from the member for Oakville South (Mr Carrothers), who is suggesting that what I am saying is not true, I simply said that the Minister of Education directed that the Lord's Prayer not solely be used in our schools.

**Mr Fleet:** The Supreme Court of Ontario made the order. They're complying with the court order.

**Mr Dietsch:** Tell the whole story.

**Mrs Marland:** That is a fact. The reason for that direction is one that could also be challenged, but that is fine. If the Liberal members, including the member for High Park-Swansea, who is also arguing against that fact, are defending their positions, that is fine. They can be accountable to the people who elect them.

I am simply free to speak in this House and say that I happen to believe that as we will move forward to celebrate a Heritage Day in this province, that Heritage Day should have regard for our Christian heritage as well as our multicultural heritage.

As I speak on behalf of the people in Mississauga South, I want to tell members that those people whom I support who have very rich cultural backgrounds, whether it is Greek,

Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, whatever background the people who live in Mississauga represent—it is through their strength, collectively, that this province will move forward.

We must remember that heritage and culture are more than dances and costumes. When we talk about the heritage and culture of the people of Ontario, we are talking about the people who live here. It is those people, their beliefs, their morals, their standards and their ethics that we would celebrate with a Heritage Day in this province, not the fact, as has been suggested by the member for Scarborough West and the member for High Park-Swansea, that we have a vacation to deal with the winter blahs.

When we salute the prospect of having an official Heritage Day, we should salute also the number of volunteers who are involved in those heritage organizations throughout this province and work hard all year round to maintain heritage through those volunteer organizations.

In closing, I want to repeat something I said in February 1988 at the outset of Heritage Week. I said then, "To emphasize the fact that our heritage is the most important aspect of where we are today, I would suggest that each one of us looks into the past as we reach for the future and benefit from the legacy of the people who have left for us a very rich cultural heritage in this province."

The motto of the city of Mississauga is "Pride in Our Past and Faith in Our Future," and I share that with the members of this Legislature.

**Mr Owen:** I too want to endorse the bill proposed by the member for Simcoe East. I also have a little concern with the wording of the bill. This has already been pointed out to the Legislature by the member for Scarborough West. I am happy to support the wording of the bill, but I would be even happier to have supported what is spelled out in the explanatory note accompanying the bill. They seem to contradict one another.

The explanatory note says there will be a holiday on the third Monday of February and it will be called Heritage Day. Unfortunately, the bill itself says that a municipality can proclaim a public holiday and that it will be called Heritage Day. In other words, I note that it does not achieve what I think it was intended to do.

**1150**

Back in 1973, the Heritage Canada Foundation endorsed the idea of a Heritage Day and spelled out that there were no other holidays at that time, that it was close to the anniversary of

the adoption of our Canadian flag, which, if I recall, was February 15, and that it did not favour any particular group or single person to be recognized, but felt that it would recognize the heritage of the entire country.

I would point out that there are some objections to the idea of having a Heritage Day, in that it would mean we would be less productive in this country, but I would point out that the United States has 12 statutory holidays, five of which are devoted to heritage; Finland has 12 holidays devoted to persons and events of national significance; Canada currently has only nine statutory holidays; the United Kingdom has 11; Spain has 10; Japan, which we regard as a very productive country—in fact, it is the only major industrialized country which records stronger growth than Ontario—has 13 statutory holidays annually; Australia has 10. So with our nine you can see that we are certainly lagging behind what other countries are doing.

I would also point out that Mexico has a holiday on February 5; Japan has a holiday on February 11 which is called Constitution Day; in the United States the third Monday in February is Washington's Birthday and the third Monday in January is Martin Luther King Day. Both are statutory holidays in that country.

Already in our country there are companies which recognize the need for a holiday in February. For example, Sperry instruments and Procter and Gamble provide their employees with a midwinter holiday, basically to boost the morale of their employees.

I think it is important that we think of Heritage Day so we can observe the importance of our native people and what they have contributed to our culture, so that we can recognize the founding roots of French and English and what other people have brought to our country. I think we could recognize the various nationalities in my riding, for example. The south end of my riding has a large segment of Portuguese and they have brought their contributions of respect for family life, for their traditions, their ability to work hard and to be frugal.

I would also point out that with a Heritage Day we could recognize local events of history, the accomplishments of various people and individuals in our local history and traditions. I would submit that while I support this particular bill, I would hope that it would go further on some occasion and recognize the need for a Heritage Day not only in this province, but across the country, for the reasons that I have spelled out.

I would also point out that there is some confusion in Alberta, because I understand it has already named the third Monday in February as a holiday and is calling it Family Day, and that the civic holiday in August in Alberta is now being called Heritage Day. I would ask that the federal government intervene, to try to bring a consistency across the country in establishing the importance and the need for a statutory holiday in February, on the third Monday of February, establish it and call it Heritage Day.

**Mr McLean:** I will use part of that time to wrap up. I would like to comment briefly on some of the remarks that were made by the member for High Park-Swansea. As he indicated, we had introduced our bills on the same day and he had amended his later on. I think the time has come for this type of legislation to be enacted. I have had many people say to me and encourage me, over the period of years that I have been trying to bring in a Simcoe Day and some different wordings, to try to get the third Monday in February designated as Heritage Day.

There is some confusion in some people's minds over whether we are talking about Heritage Day as a holiday or as a holiday across Ontario, and that is really not the intent of the bill. The intent of the bill is to make sure that the third Monday is designated as Heritage Day. I understand that the bill would be referred to committee. That could be determined, then, by a committee of this Legislature, however it may want to amend it. It would be able to include that in it, if the committee so wished.

When the select committee on education recommended the same back in about 1982, as the member for High Park-Swansea had indicated, there was a lot of discussion at that time with regard to the March break period. But when we go from 1 January to almost the end of March, there are a lot of people who are looking for a holiday in that time. If that is what the members of the Legislature wish, then so be it.

I compliment the member for High Park-Swansea for bringing in very similar legislation, and I hope that some action will be taken by this Legislature to have a Heritage Day in this province acknowledged.

I want to thank the member for Scarborough West for support of the bill and aspects of the multicultural aspect that he had discussed with regards to the importance of it. I believe that some day it will not be uncommon for people in this province to be speaking several languages; not one or two, but several. I think young people today will have the opportunity to do just that.

When we look at the population of Metropolitan Toronto and the large ethnic population here, I think it is important that we do acknowledge Heritage Day and the heritage of every member in society.

I want to thank the member for Mississauga South (Mrs Marland) for her support of this bill and my colleague the member for Simcoe Centre (Mr Owen) for discussing the various holidays that are taking place in different parts of the world. I think it is good to have that on the record, so that people will be able to see it and realize what is taking place in other countries.

I compliment him on his brief presentation, because I know his background and heritage and how interested he is within his local community and his riding with regards to what we have worked over the years to maintain for the future and to make sure that our heritage is not forgotten.

When we look at what takes place in other countries with regard to the holidays, I would be very prepared to have the bill referred to committee and have it discussed in committee, as I am sure the member for High Park-Swansea would want to be part of those discussions to make sure that if this bill does not finally come to fruition, then perhaps his bills will. I am not particular about where it comes from, as long as it happens. I think it is important that all members of the Legislature support it, because we do realize that it is needed.

With those few words, I will conclude my remarks. I would hope that every member of the Legislature would see fit to support the bill.

**The Speaker:** It appears that completes the discussion on ballot item 5 and ballot item 6. The standing order does state that the vote shall be taken at 1200. Is there agreement that we are close enough to 1200?

Agreed to.

#### NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES

**The Speaker:** Mr Laughren has moved resolution 7.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

#### HERITAGE DAY ACT, 1989

**The Speaker:** Mr McLean has moved second reading of Bill 7.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr McLean:** I would like the bill referred to the standing committee on general government.

**Mr Reycraft:** Under standing order 71(1) I note that these bills should be referred to committee of the whole House, unless referred to a standing or select committee by a majority of the whole House. It would be my advice that the bill be referred to committee of the whole House.

**The Speaker:** The standing order is very clear that any bill given second reading shall be referred to committee of the whole House unless a majority wishes otherwise. In the past we have discussed this matter and there have been occasions when unanimous consent has been

given. I would have to feel that unanimous consent is not available. Therefore, would the House be willing to allow it to go to committee of the whole House?

Agreed to.

**Mr McLean:** I would like to request that it be referred to the standing committee on general government.

**The Speaker:** Therefore, I will have to ask:

All those in favour of the bill going to standing committee will please rise.

All those opposed will please rise.

There is not a majority in favour of it going to standing committee. It will be referred to committee of the whole House.

The House recessed at 1204.

## AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1330.

### MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### TEACHERS' LABOUR DISPUTE

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** There are a number of people in the gallery here today from the English Catholic Teachers' Association and l'Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-Ontariens from the Kirkland Lake district who exemplify a problem that often happens for northern Ontarians: They and their problems are ignored.

Can members imagine a strike taking place in education in the city of Toronto and affecting five communities in which for six weeks none of the elementary school students were able to go to class because of the intransigence of the board and that the matter would be ignored? Well, that has been the case in Kirkland Lake and surrounding communities.

Since the strike started on 18 April, 1,200 students have been out of school. Only one day of mediation has taken place since that time. All the teachers are asking for is comparable working conditions to those in neighbouring jurisdictions. For some reason or other, the Minister of Education (Mr Ward) has not seen fit to put his weight behind getting the board to the bargaining table, especially after the announcement that has been made around pooling changes, which takes away the major argument of the board that it cannot afford to meet the demands of the teachers.

That could never have happened in southern Ontario, but it is happening on a day-to-day basis there and those children are in danger of having their school year grossly affected.

#### COURT RULING

**Mr Jackson:** I wish to bring to this government's attention the case of Franca Capretta, who was viciously beaten with a baseball bat by her husband on the front lawn of their home on 4 June 1987. The victim spent three months in hospital. She underwent surgery to remove skull fragments that were lodged in her brain and must still undergo reconstructive surgery.

However, this week in Ottawa, Justice Houston sentenced her assailant to only 90 days in jail, to be served on weekends, for the reduced charge of aggravated assault, because according to

Justice Houston, "the beating was an aberration in the life of a hardworking family man."

I submit to members of this House that both the reduction of the original charge of attempted murder and the sentence itself are outrageous and unjust. The victim will have spent more time in hospital than the assailant will spend in jail. This case is another indication of the crying need for the removal of the false distinction between wife assault and common assault in the minds of our society and apparently our judiciary.

I call upon the Attorney General (Mr Scott) to take immediate action on behalf of this woman and direct appeal of the sentence for the assault causing bodily harm. I renew my calls to the Attorney General to review the existing sentencing procedures in current use by Ontario judges. The women of this province, and indeed all Ontarians concerned for the cause of justice, depend on the government's swift action.

#### 4-H PROGRAM

**Mr Adams:** I am pleased that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is moving to rejuvenate the 4-H program. 4-H began in Canada in 1913 with potato, livestock, sewing and gardening clubs for young people. More recently, its emphasis has been a broad approach to personal development of youth in rural Ontario.

It now aims to develop self-reliance, leadership and career-related skills. The 4-H motto is still "Learn by Doing," so that the hands-on approach of club projects is greatly emphasized. Today, 4-H activities are attractive to rural and urban youth. They include computer work, landscaping and recreational projects as well as the traditional agricultural topics. Urban participation is high in veterinary science, recreation and canine projects. All projects, from home science to large-animal husbandry, now attract both boys and girls.

The Peterborough 4-H Club is thriving at a time when the movement has encountered slack times elsewhere. Membership has increased over each of the past three years, an increase of 14 per cent since 1987. The Peterborough club now serves young people from 11 to 21 years of age. It draws from the rural and urban sectors of the community. 4-H is alive and well in Peterborough.

#### LABOUR DISPUTE

**Mr Allen:** The strikes in the children's aid societies in Hamilton have been going on now for

seven weeks, and the potential for tragedy grows. Early this week Maria Cabral, a 16-year-old foster child, had no one to talk to. Her foster parents are not people she can relate to. Her worker was unavailable because of the strike. She took three bottles of pills and almost died. Foster parents, in turn, are feeling helpless as the strike continues and they have no support workers to relate to.

The impasse continues because the society workers cannot be expected to work in the intolerable case-load situations, the extensive overtime, the periodic 24-hour availability routine in this highly-stressed work, and they deserve at least inflation-level wage increases in salaries.

The announcement that the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney) made earlier this week with respect to topping up low wages in social agencies pointedly excluded the children's aid societies. He missed an opportunity.

Now a solution can only be found, it seems to me, if the minister will move to assure these two societies that if they substantially relieve the case loads and provide inflation-level increases over the term of a multi-year contract, he will not see the agencies suffer financially as a result. I ask him to give those assurances today so that Maria Cabral and her friends can talk to their workers again and tragedy may be avoided.

#### GOVERNMENT POLICIES

**Mr Harris:** After reading the headlines in the Huntsville Herald News last week about a 64 per cent increase in municipal taxes, and comments as well from the local Liberal member calling for a cut in local education spending, I came across an interesting letter to the editor. I would like to read it to members today. It says:

"Dear Editor,

"The Peterson Liberals in their throne speech announced a new initiative for the rescue of our environment. Rather than a substantive program with funds being committed, the Premier has introduced a new lottery called Cleantario, which will allow the provincial government to avoid its responsibilities for positive action.

"The public relations guys who suggest these ideas seem to be suffering from the same bankruptcy of ideas as the government. Incredible, eh?

"At no expense to the taxpayer, I suggest the following lotteries to raise funds for those programs that the Liberals have neglected: For hospitals and health care services, You Bet Your

Life, or perhaps the I Wish Sweepstakes; for transportation, Pothole Poker, and for education, Scratch Your Future.

"Many of your readers may have even better proposals. If they would like to send me their ideas at Box 1825, Gravenhurst, the best suggestion will be rewarded with a one-year membership in the Muskoka-Georgian Bay PC Association. And it will be sent to the Premier at absolutely no charge."

It is signed "George Beatty," obviously a concerned citizen, one who is not prepared to gamble on Ontario's future.

#### ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** I rise today to acknowledge a day of significance for the Armenian members of our multicultural society in Ontario. This Sunday, 28 May, marks Armenian Independence Day. At the end of the First World War, the people of Armenia celebrated their independence.

The chairman of the Armenian National Council commemorated the day with the following words: "Yes, our republic is small and its bounds are narrow. It is deprived of its best lands and there is not enough room for all the people.... But I feel that the boundaries of the state cannot remain inflexible for ever."

History has removed the independence of Armenia, but not the spirit of the people.

1340

I would remind the members of the House that the ties between Ontario and Armenia go back to 1886, when the Armenian people first settled in this province in the St Catharines area. Those ties were made stronger last year when the tragic earthquake struck and the people of Ontario rallied to the aid of the Armenian victims. This kind of mutual support is a reflection of the true spirit of multiculturalism that we celebrate here in Ontario.

I would also like to acknowledge the presence in the House today of Sarkis Assadourian, manager and executive director of the Armenian Community Centre in North York. I extend good wishes to the Armenian people in Ontario, to Mr Assadourian and all around the world on Armenian Independence Day.

**The Speaker:** The member for Riverdale for 33 seconds.

#### NURSING SERVICES

**Mr Reville:** I would like to bring to the attention of the Legislature inquests into the deaths of two women, one of whom lived in the

Kitchener area and one of whom lived in the Guelph area. In both cases, the women, suffering either from injuries sustained in car accidents or from heart attacks, had to be moved around the province to find a hospital that had enough nurses to take care of them. Regrettably, both women died. The government had better pay careful attention to the inquest recommendations.

### ORAL QUESTIONS

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Kormos:** I have a question of the Solicitor General referring once again to the sequence of events that occurred in April in Lucan at the Ontario Provincial Police detachment.

The Solicitor General has told us that her motive in attending at the police station was "to assure myself that he"—referring to Whalen and, I presume, to the "crippled friend" who has been spoken of—"was indeed safe and then reassure the daughter." She said that on more than one occasion.

The minister has also indicated that when she arrived at the police station, and we know this to be fact now, she met the Whalen father and realized she had been misled about two things: one, about the parents not being in town, and two, about the young man being abused.

The question to be asked then is why at that point the minister did not discontinue her attendance. Rather, at that point the question is, why did she carry on into the police station and spend some 10 minutes there identifying herself, among other things—

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr Kormos:** —she did not have to identify herself as Solicitor General—but identifying herself as a friend of the family?

**The Speaker:** Order. The question has been asked.

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I would like to say to the member for Welland-Thorold, as I have said before, that I received the call and I went up for the reasons stated, to make sure that indeed I could reassure the daughter that her brother was in safe hands. Two of the police officers went by me as I was talking to the father in the parking lot. I therefore considered it a courtesy to go into the station and let them know why I had come and to assure them that I had no interest whatsoever in affecting anything in the course of justice; I had simply come as a result of the call, for that reason. It was to make sure that the police fully

understood this that I felt it necessary to explain to them that that was the reason for my going.

**Mr Kormos:** That is an incredible period of time, 10 minutes, in which to relay what would appear to have been a very brief message.

It remains that the Solicitor General did not speak to the Whalen boy—and that would appear to have been one of her motives in attending—addressed no concern about the "crippled friend" who had similarly been arrested, then failed to reassure the daughter, as she told us the motive for her mission was, because we have not heard anything about her calling back the daughter. Rather, it was a matter of receiving a phone call from the daughter subsequently and then making her own phone call back to the OPP detachment.

Under those circumstances, how can the community not perceive her conduct as anything other than trying to use her influence as Solicitor General to aid or to mitigate the circumstances of a very close friend of the Smith family?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** There are all kinds of assumptions here that are not true: for one thing, the "very close friend" is not true at all; for another, the business about the other party. I found I had been completely misled about the safety of John Whalen, so I took for granted that I was misled about anybody's danger. That was why I simply told them I had been misled. Actually, I discussed with them summer's advent and some casual things and left.

**Mr Kormos:** The Solicitor General would have us and the community believe that there was a sense of urgency about all of this and that she was certainly alarmed. Why then, as she tells us, upon being awakened at 1:30 in the morning or just a little bit earlier—

**Mr Reycraft:** You've said she was alarmed. She didn't.

**Mr Kormos:** The Solicitor General said that and it is in Hansard. She was awakened by a phone call. If there was this sense of urgency, concern about the family friend and his abuse by the police, why would there not have been a phone call made to the police station? Why would there be a personal attendance by the Solicitor General to come to the aid of this close family friend?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I repeat, as I repeated before, that I was wakened in the middle of the night by the sister, who was very alarmed. Has the member got that? I wished to reassure her. I felt confident that when I got to the police station I would be quickly reassured about her brother's safety and would reassure her.

**Mr B. Rae:** Perhaps the Solicitor General is familiar with the Police Act and the regulations that are passed under the Police Act. The regulations under section 31 of the Police Act say this to the Solicitor General, "No chief of police, constable or other police officer shall take or act upon any order, direction or instruction of a member of a board or council." That would apply to any member of a police commission.

For example, if a member of the local police commission or the Ontario Police Commission had received a call similar to the one the Solicitor General received, not only would it have been entirely improper but clearly it would have been against the regulations, and against the Police Act itself, for a member of the police commission to turn up at a police station and do anything that would even be perceived as giving an instruction or advice to a member of the police force.

**The Speaker:** Question.

**Mr B. Rae:** I wonder if the Solicitor General can tell us why she feels she is not subject to the same principles and the same requirements of the Police Act and its regulations as members of the Ontario Police Commission and any local board of police commissioners.

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I certainly accept that I am. I did not act, instruct or otherwise involve myself in the case or interfere in any way in the processes of justice.

**Mr B. Rae:** I thought that is what the Solicitor General might say. I wonder if she can contrast her statement with the statement made yesterday by one of the spokesmen for the OPP, Mr Guay, who is listed in the Ontario phone book as responsible for media relations for the OPP. He stated yesterday, "It's unusual that a minister show up at a detachment and it is perceived as pressure by investigating officers when she's on the scene."

That perception of pressure is there. It is very real. It is clearly felt by members of the police force, as members of the Police Association of Ontario have stated, and that is why it is set out clearly in the regulations. Does the minister feel she is bound by the same principles of the Police Act and its regulations as any member of a local board of commissioners of police or of the Ontario Police Commission itself?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I do indeed believe that, and that is why I wanted to make certain that in this case the police did not perceive any instruction, threat or pressure. That is why I made clear to them that I had come strictly at the request of a young lady who was very disturbed and had no

interest in putting on any pressure. This is all reported.

**Mr B. Rae:** I wonder if the Solicitor General has now had time to reflect on the events of the last week. She has heard, I am sure, from many members of the OPP force. She heard from a spokesman of the police association yesterday and she heard from a spokesman for the OPP yesterday in terms of how they perceive and how they feel about a minister of the crown showing up at a police station at 1:30 in the morning and phoning again at four o'clock in the morning with respect to somebody who is being held in detention.

**1350**

Is the Solicitor General not now prepared to stand up and admit what she should have admitted as soon as these facts became public: that she made a mistake, that she recognizes it was a mistake, that it is perceived as pressure by the police and that anything a minister of the crown does that even appears to interfere with a police investigation is utterly and completely improper?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** Any attempt to interfere with the course of justice would be completely wrong and I would not do it. Any attempt to influence a court case would be completely wrong and I would not do it. That is why I took the time to assure the police that I had no interest in any change, that I had come simply as a result of the phone call, was happy with the results and wanted to go back and reassure the daughter, although I did not need to do that since the father had already acted in that capacity.

**Mr Brandt:** I would like to ask the Solicitor General if in fact she believes she can serve in the capacity as the Solicitor General of Ontario, and therefore directly in charge of the Ontario Provincial Police, and at the same time have another role as a private citizen while serving in that primary capacity?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** It was to make clear that I understood the difference in the roles that I went in and explained to them that I wanted no role in the justice of the case. That was strictly theirs and I recognized this. I was there strictly to find out that the boy was safe.

**Mr Brandt:** Obviously the OPP did not understand the minister's instructions to them, because they are now saying that by her very presence, without uttering a word, without in any way interfering with the actual activities of the OPP in their handling of this particular matter, she, by showing up and subsequently calling

back, applies subtle influence to a case of this kind. Does the minister not see that distinction in her responsibility?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I would say that by that very question the member is admitting that it was a good thing I went and reassured them I was there on only the one purpose, that I had no interest in interfering with justice.

**Mr Brandt:** It is becoming increasingly difficult to understand how the minister can justify showing up at an OPP detachment at 1:30 in the morning and in some way offering some instructions. Of course, the detail of that is not available to the members of the opposition, because she is now hiding behind a police report as being the only information that is available with respect to any kind of arm's-length, independent study.

I ask the minister again: Even if as a lack of judgement, even if her judgement call in the first instance was absolutely wrong, which it was, by showing up at 1:30, why then—and while this question has in fact been answered before, it has never been responded to accurately, correctly or directly—would she call back, knowing she had already committed an error by being in the parking lot, talking to the father, going into the detachment, speaking to the police in whatever manner—

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr Brandt:** —which is still a mystery, then going home, having time to think about it—

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Brandt:** My question, Mr Speaker, is, why did she call back?

**The Speaker:** You placed that previously. Minister.

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I find under the circumstances of calling back that I cannot understand the question being raised in the way it is. I received yet a second phone call that conveyed more concern about the safety of the young man, which of course was completely uncalled for. I phoned the police station, simply reported the conversation to the police and asked strictly that they put on record, in case it was ever inquired about, that I had got a second call and that indeed I had told the daughter to follow normal processes. I told the police, "I have no interest in this whatsoever."

**Mr Runciman:** My question is to the Premier, again dealing with the Solicitor General's misconduct. The Premier will know that all members of cabinet are expected to act in a highly distinguished and dignified manner as ministers

of the crown. I am wondering if the Premier would advise us of what guidelines his cabinet operates under with respect to contacts between cabinet officers and police.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** There are guidelines that have been issued. They were issued some years ago, I think in the Davis regime, and they are the operative guidelines.

**Mr Runciman:** Based on the Premier's conclusion that he has reached and expressed to this House and to the public, that the Solicitor General's conduct in the early morning hours of 9 April does not justify her removal from office, would the Premier indicate to us whether or not he has reviewed the guidelines as established by former Premier Davis and if indeed his Solicitor General conformed to those guidelines?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Yes, I have reviewed them; and yes, she has, in my judgement.

**Mr Runciman:** For the record, this was dated 8 November 1978 and it deals with the policy of communication between members of executive council and key officials in the judicial system: "With the exception of the Attorney General in the performance of his duties as chief law officer of the crown and the Solicitor General in the performance of his duties as the minister responsible for the police, no member of cabinet may communicate with police officials concerning the decision by the police to lay a charge or charges."

Is the Premier saying to this House and to the people of this province that his minister did not violate that guideline? It seems quite clear to me and it seems quite clear to members of this party that the minister did indeed violate that guideline.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I am glad the member read it into the record because it is very clear she did not. She did not discuss the laying of charges. I think the member has answered his own question. He is quite right, she did not violate them.

**Mr B. Rae:** I want to put to the Premier the question that I put to the Solicitor General that she was unable to answer. What is the Premier's response to the statement by an official of the OPP that the very fact the minister was at the detachment was "perceived as pressure by investigating officers when she's on the scene"? What is his response to that?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** That was one of the subjects of the report. It said there was very clearly no influence on the course of justice, that there was nothing untoward that happened. There was no attempt to influence the course of

justice. Very clearly, the member may have that perception and others may have that perception but it was not, in fact, the case.

**Mr B. Rae:** The Premier—I choose my words very carefully—cannot hide behind a police report which, in fact, dealt with the question of a criminal charge against someone; that is to say, the possibility of criminal charges. It was a criminal investigation with respect to the potential criminality of the actions of the Solicitor General.

Does the Premier not realize that, short of criminal behaviour, it is also possible for ministers of the crown to act improperly, and that he should stop using the language about “unto-ward” and all this other language which he is inventing, that he should deal with the perception which is felt very strongly by members of the OPP that the presence of a minister of the crown, a Solicitor General in this instance, at 1:30 in the morning, after which there is a phone call at four o’clock, is “unusual” and is “perceived as pressure by investigating officers when she’s on the scene”? Does the Premier not understand that you do not have to be a crook in order to do something wrong?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I understand that absolutely. Let me tell the member that the report went into all the facts surrounding the circumstances. I told the member about the police report. It mentions the accused and there is an accused in this particular case. I say to the member, and I think most people who are aware of this appreciate the fact, that there has been a full, independent investigation. Their conclusion was that there was no interference in the carriage of justice.

**Mr Runciman:** Again to the Premier, the Premier has indicated that based on the results of the OPP investigation of the actions of the Solicitor General on the morning of 9 April, he is satisfied that she did not do anything that would justify her removal from office. Did the police report that the Premier based his decision on spell out what the Solicitor General said to the police officers and what they said to her?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** It dealt with all of the facts of the situation in the eyes of the police. I did not ask them how to conduct their investigation. They came back with their assessment of the facts and that is where it sits.

1400

**Mr Runciman:** I think that tells it all right there. Obviously, the Premier is telling us that his minister conformed to the guidelines. He does

not know what she said. He does not know what the police officer said to her. There is a very clear indication in this memo from Mr Davis with respect to the conduct expected of ministers. Yet, the Premier has the effrontery to get up in the House and say that she did not violate the guidelines and that her actions justify her staying in office—

**The Speaker:** Question?

**Mr Runciman:** I really do not know how we can proceed with respect to this Premier dealing with this.

**The Speaker:** Do you have a question?

**Mr Runciman:** He is not answering these questions in a forthright manner. Obviously, he does not have the information—

**The Speaker:** Order, order. There is no question. New question.

#### BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

**Mr Owen:** I have a question for the Minister of Culture and Communications. Upper Canada, the predecessor of Ontario, came into existence when the British Parliament passed the Constitutional Act of 1791. It divided the old province of Quebec into Lower Canada in the east and Upper Canada in the west, along our present Ontario-Quebec boundaries.

After the American Revolution of 1783, many British subjects came into this country by way of being what were later identified as United Empire Loyalists. The Quebec Act of 1774 gave the French both religious and political concessions, but the Loyalists did not want to live under French civil law and without the representative assembly to which they had become accustomed. So London, in its wisdom, passed the Constitutional Act on 8 June 1791.

My question to the minister is, what will Ontario be doing to remember our 200th birthday in 1991?

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** The Minister of Culture and Communications, and indeed I think every member in this House, is aware of the significant events that occurred between 1791 and 1793 and the impact of those events on the development of our province. Indeed, we as a province will be celebrating those events between 1991 and 1993.

My ministry, and I as minister, have taken the lead role right now in co-ordinating an infrastructure whereby we might celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries. I think it is important for every member of the House to understand and accept my invitation to let me know of their suggestions.

I will of course be taking it through cabinet and cabinet committee and then opening up to local communities and members to get their suggestions on how we might celebrate. I do thank the member for his interest.

**Mr Owen:** As I have mentioned, the British House enacted the legislation on 8 June 1791. Royal assent, or a form thereof, was given on 10 June 1791. Under the Constitutional Act, our province was given a Lieutenant Governor, an executive council to advise him, a legislative council to act as an upper House and a representative assembly.

What I would like to ask the minister is, what opportunities of involvement will be given to the people of this province, our communities and schools to participate in 1991 to honour this important event?

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** As I indicated, the framework or the plan has not yet been approved, but certainly it is our intention, since all citizens of Ontario are part of the celebration, to ask local communities and members of the House for their suggestions. I anticipate that some of the guidelines will simply leave it up to local communities, with our assistance, to celebrate. I do invite the member, because of his interest in heritage, to also work with members of the Legislature to make sure that his feelings are known to me and others.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Kormos:** The Solicitor General (Mrs Smith) tells the Legislature that she had no intention of interfering with police action, but rather that she made the trip and drove some distance rather than making a phone call. In view of the fact that she would have us believe there was a sense of urgency, that she made the trip out of concern about undue force and that she wanted to make sure that young Whalen was fine, she tells us that she did not think her appearance would make any impression on the police officers in the handling of the case.

In view of the fact that she addressed her concerns only to young Whalen, that she persisted in talking to the police and that she persisted in identifying herself as a friend of the family, how can we now expect the community to believe it did not have any influence and that it could not have had any influence? How can the Solicitor General excuse her conduct in view of the fact that there is very special treatment being given to very special people?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** Obviously, the young man was being treated in a proper way. I was able to find that out from the father. The father left him there overnight. I therefore had no concern about him, but I had been identified in the driveway by the police officer, so I wanted to assure them that I had no interest in the case, did not want to interfere in any way with justice, and did not even inquire if charges were being laid or not laid. I found that out much later, after the whole thing was over.

**Mr Kormos:** What she assured them was that she was a good friend of the family and was not just conducting herself in the role of MPP or even Solicitor General. If the Solicitor General was so concerned and cautious after that attendance, why did she make the subsequent phone call to the police station? Why did she not simply tell the Whalen daughter: "Enough of this nonsense. You have misled me once already. Talk to your father, he is the one who has already been there"? No, she did not say that. She called the police station once again as a close friend of the family and Solicitor General.

**The Speaker:** Order. There were two questions.

**Hon Mrs Smith:** Indeed, as stated before, that is precisely what I said to the young girl, and I simply reported the call to the police, because I thought if it came up in the House, as it has come up, I would want everything on the record, including that call and the fact that indeed I had told her that I had no intention of involvement.

**Mr Runciman:** As a follow-up to my last commentary, I have a question of the Premier. He has indicated that the report gives no details of the comments made by his Solicitor General or the response of the police officers in the early morning hours of 9 April. Yet he has advised us that she should remain in office and that she did not violate the guidelines set down by Premier Davis. Could he advise us how he reached those conclusions, based on the fact that he did not have this information before him?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I had the complete independent police review in front of me and all the facts. The police involved were interviewed and they were allowed to make their statements and we had all the facts the investigating officers thought were relevant. It was on that basis that I made the decision. I can understand my honourable friend wishing there was something more there. I hate to disappoint him, but there is not.

**Mr Runciman:** I would suggest that the Premier did not want to receive that sort of

information. I think he owes it to the House to explain why he does not believe it is relevant with respect to this matter that the Ontario Provincial Police did not sit down with the Solicitor General, why it did not determine what she said on both instances that she approached the Lucan OPP. I believe it is crucial. We are talking about the top cop in the province possibly intimidating police officers under her jurisdiction, obstructing the course of justice in this province. It is very important.

Why did the Premier not feel this was crucial? Why did he not feel this was very important in terms of reaching a determination?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I do not mean to be unkind, but I think my honourable friend—I understand his point in this House—undermines his own credibility when he draws some of the conclusions he would like to draw. I say that I do not agree with that. I think the investigating officers talked to the officers in the circumstances, and had there been any suggestions that influence was used, obviously that would have come back in the report. I say the definitive conclusion was that there was no influence brought to bear in the laying of charges in this matter. Now, my honourable friend will refuse to believe that, and I understand that, but I say those are the facts.

#### RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION

**Mr Kanter:** I have a question of the Minister of Housing. I know the Minister of Housing has taken a number of steps to protect our stock of rental housing. However, I recently became aware of a scheme known as a limited partnership, whereby rights to specific apartment units with tenants living in them are sold to other purchasers. Can the minister advise if she is generally aware of such limited partnership schemes, and furthermore, if she has sought a legal opinion as to whether they contravene the Rental Housing Protection Act?

1410

**Hon Ms Hošek:** I would like to thank the member for his question, for his continuing interest in this issue and also for the help he has given the ministry in dealing with this problem.

As the member knows, limited partnerships refer to the selling of rental housing under a scheme that offers the purchaser a long-term lease. We have indeed asked the Attorney General (Mr Scott), and he has made a legal ruling in this regard which states that such arrangements are indeed a violation of the Rental Housing Protection Act. In our view, this is a

contravention of the Rental Housing Protection Act, and those who are involved in it are liable to a \$50,000 fine and/or a year in prison.

**Mr Kanter:** I appreciate the minister's reply, particularly the indication that those who are in contravention of the Rental Housing Protection Act are subject to very serious fines or possibly imprisonment.

However, I would like to further ask the minister about two specific locations in my riding, 191 St George Street and 660 Eglinton Avenue West. They have contacted my office, in some cases after seeing newspaper ads that would sell out the units they are living in right from under them. They are, naturally, extremely concerned. They have also heard from prospective purchasers of those units.

Can the minister advise whether she is aware of the concerns of the tenants in those specific buildings and, furthermore, whether her ministry has actually launched a prosecution under the Rental Housing Protection Act in order to protect these tenants in my riding?

**Hon Ms Hošek:** We have indeed been conducting an investigation into a number of buildings, including 191 St George. We hold the view that there is clearly a flagrant contravention of the Rental Housing Protection Act in this case, and we are in the process of laying charges.

I also want to add a warning to the people in the province who may be approached to take part in a scheme like this one. Let me just tell them that they are really playing with fire. There is a serious risk for them of getting involved in an economic transaction that is not going to work, that could come to grief, and I hope they will stay away from any scheme like this one.

Legal action is being taken in the case of 191 St George. It is a clear indication that we are not going to tolerate abuses of the Rental Housing Protection Act. Wherever there are violations of this sort, we will act.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr B. Rae:** I want to go back to the Premier. I want to clear up, if I may, and try to get to the bottom of this question of exactly what the Ontario Provincial Police investigation was.

I am sure the Premier will appreciate that it is very unusual for the Premier of the province to order an OPP investigation into the conduct of one of his ministers. I can think of very few instances where this has happened in our recent history.

There seems to be some confusion about exactly what this report was. It was a report into the potential criminal behaviour of one of his own cabinet colleagues. Presumably, that is what the police were asked to inquire into and that is what they did in fact inquire into.

I would like to ask the Premier, first of all, to confirm that the report he has in front of him, which none of the rest of us have seen, was confined to the question of the potential criminal liability of the Solicitor General (Mrs Smith). Second, can he confirm that in fact the Solicitor General was not herself interviewed by the officer conducting the investigation?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** It was not into that question; it was into all the facts surrounding her attendance. Had criminal culpability grown out of that, obviously that would have been an offshoot, but that was not the preliminary sense. There was a desire to get all of the facts in front of us so that we could make judgements that ultimately were political. So that is the situation.

The investigating officer went and talked to all the people he felt were appropriate, as he is an expert in carrying out these kinds of investigations to determine all of the facts. I did not tell him whom to investigate. I do not even know, frankly, which officer did it. I did not ask them to talk to any particular people or investigate any particular line. They conducted it, to the best of their ability, independently.

**Mr B. Rae:** The OPP is not a private investigative operation for one person, no matter how esteemed and well known that person may be—the president, the Premier or whatever title he may have. The OPP has public responsibilities.

If the Premier is saying that the report was not about the criminal liability of one of his cabinet colleagues, but rather it was an investigation into the facts surrounding the appropriateness or the untowardness of the conduct of his colleague the Solicitor General, then perhaps the Premier should, since he has quoted from the report in several instances, at least do us the common courtesy of allowing all of us to see the report.

He himself is now saying that it was not a report confined to criminality; it was not a police investigation conducted at the instigation of the Attorney General (Mr Scott) or by the police themselves; it was conducted at the personal request of the Premier of this province. Since the OPP is not a private police force belonging to the Premier, why does he not make the report public?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Interestingly enough, let me just clear that up for my honourable friend. When I was informed about this by the Secretary

of the Management Board of Cabinet, I said that I wanted to get all of the facts pertaining to this. He put the message back down the line and already the police had ordered their own investigation of the matter.

It is the same report. They got the report and I got the report. I gather that the commissioner had ordered this to make sure that he was aware of all the facts, and the commissioner had the same report that I have. I think that is the first thing my honourable friend may want to understand.

Second, I think the member understands, as a lawyer, that police reports are not made public. He understands as well as I do that criminal charges have been laid in this matter against a particular accused and—

**Mr B. Rae:** That was not the report. The subject of the report was not Mr Whalen. The subject of the report was the Solicitor General.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** My honourable friend, I think, would understand that Mr Whalen's behaviour was part of the report and why the Solicitor General attended and how she attended and what happened in those instances. Obviously, the name of the accused is mentioned. The member would not want to do anything to prejudice a particular criminal proceeding.

**Mr Brandt:** The Premier may have cleared up a question that I was going to raise. As I now understand it, if my understanding is correct, there was one report that was requested by both him and the OPP, which resulted in one report.

If that is correct, I wonder if the Premier could share with us whether the instructions that flowed from his office with respect to the area to be investigated within the context of that report was a mirror image of what the OPP had with respect to their request in terms of the investigation that they carried out. Were they one and the same in terms of the area that they covered?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I just said to the secretary of cabinet that I wanted all the facts on this. He conveyed it down the line. I was told that a police investigation had already been ordered by, I gather, the OPP in this matter, and I waited to get the results of that. So there is one report ordered almost simultaneously by two groups. It started with them.

**Mr Brandt:** I am having continued problems with respect to how this whole matter unfolded. The understanding I have is that the Solicitor General did in fact visit the OPP detachment at approximately 1:30 am, spoke to the father in the parking lot and subsequently went into the

building. What was exchanged by way of conversation we know nothing about because that ostensibly is in the police report. We understand that the Solicitor General then left and went home and, subsequent to that visit, made a phone call to the OPP.

I want to ask the Premier: If the report covered the fact that the Solicitor General was in contact with the father and knew that the family was secure in the sense that someone in that senior capacity relative to the family was in charge, what justification can the Premier give for the Solicitor General making still a second contact, knowing full well that the first contact was highly questionable and wrong and, therefore, that the second contact was simply aggravating an already difficult situation? What did the report have to say about that second call?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** The report covered all of those matters and came to exactly the conclusion I told the member. It said that there was no political interference.

1420

#### TOURISM REDEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

**Mr Dietsch:** My question is to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. All members were pleased last week when he announced the reinstatement of the tourism redevelopment incentive program, otherwise known as TRIP. Would the minister please inform this House whether those applications—and there were a number of applications that were made last year—which were not processed will be dealt with on a priority basis, or whether operators must submit new applications to fit in with this program?

**Hon Mr O'Neil:** I would like to thank the member for St Catharines-Brock for his question, because I know of his interest in the tourism business in Ontario.

During the review of the tourism redevelopment incentive program, my ministry staff were able to assist many of the tourism operators with some of the other programs that we have in existence, those being mainly the tourism term loans, the Destinations East and the Destinations North programs. The TRIP applications which were not looked after are being reviewed this year by my staff on a priority basis, and the operators will be contacted by the staff of my ministry to update all of those files.

**Mr Dietsch:** I am sure that tourism operators will be very pleased to hear the minister's answer today, particularly tourism operators in my

riding of St Catharines-Brock. Would the minister please advise this House and those viewing of the total value of the TRIP loans available under this program that was announced last week?

**Hon Mr O'Neil:** Under the previous TRIP, the total value of the TRIP loan guarantees provided in a full year was approximately \$25 million. Under the new TRIP I announced a couple of weeks ago that has now been raised to a loan guarantee level of \$30 million, an increase of \$5 million. I think the industry is quite pleased with that increased level.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Kormos:** I have a question for the Premier. The Solicitor General (Mrs Smith) told the Legislature on Tuesday, 23 May, that in her view the police were not alarmed in any way by her visit to the parking lot and then to the police station, as a good friend of the Whalen family. Yet it is the Ontario Provincial Police which initiated the investigation by reporting the Solicitor General's attendance to the deputy minister, by obviously commencing their own investigation prior to the Premier's contacting them.

How is it that the Solicitor General can tell us that the police were not alarmed, yet the alarm was clearly rung, loud and clear, by the police? They are the ones who initiated an investigation. Indeed, now the Police Association of Ontario, through its spokesmen, representing 17,000 police officers, says only a full investigation can bring out all of the facts. How can the Premier say that the police were not alarmed?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** First, as I said in the report, there was no indication that they were alarmed. I think the police association will tell the member that that is not the view of the police association. I received a letter from them this morning which I will read to my honourable friend. It says:

"It has come to our attention that the Toronto Star has indicated that our executive manager, Mr Richard Houston, has asked for an independent investigation into the conduct of the Solicitor General, Mrs Joan Smith, at a recent police occurrence in Lucan, Ontario.

"In fact, Mr Houston is only quoted as saying, 'I don't think there was any intent to influence a system of justice, but there was certainly poor judgement involved in her going down there.' The article goes on to say that Mr Houston expects a full investigation into the matter. We

are assured, at this point, that a full investigation has been accomplished.

"The Toronto Star, through its headline, would lead us to believe that Mr Houston asked for an independent investigation, and I have spoken to him personally and he denies at any time that he ever suggested an independent investigation was necessary."

That is signed by Neal Jessop, the president of the Police Association of Ontario.

**Mr Kormos:** The investigation that was conducted by the OPP with a view to determining whether there was any criminal contact did not, among other things, include any interviews with the Solicitor General. Nor does it appear that the Solicitor General offered to assist the OPP by providing any comments or by providing her record of the conversation with the young lady at 3:51 in the morning and, presumably, then with the police station OPP at the same time.

The Premier is quoted on CBC radio this morning as suggesting that if there are more facts made available, his position in this matter may well change. The question is, have we heard all the facts? Indeed, are there other things that are going to leak out next week or the week after? Are there other facts that are going to be determined only as a result of a full investigation of the type suggested in the Toronto Star?

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr Kormos:** Have we got it all, because there has been no contribution by the—

**The Speaker:** Thank you. That is three questions.

**Mr Kormos:** When are we going to—

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I say to my honourable friend that, to the best of my knowledge, he has all of the facts. He said in this House that he talked to the police force and that the police shared the information with him. He would look for some things that are not there, and perhaps that is his role and responsibility, but I say to him that the facts are there and they are quite clear. Judgements have to be made on the basis of those facts.

**Mr Brandt:** The facts are there. You've seen them; no one else has.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I understand my honourable friend's disagreeing with my judgement on this matter. He is entirely entitled to do that, and we do have our disagreements from time to time on a number of matters. I have to accept the responsibility for the judgements I make, but the facts are all there. I say to my honourable friend

that one has to be very careful about determining what the facts are, because sometimes these things get misreported and misconstrued.

**Mr Runciman:** A question to the Solicitor General: She has indicated on numerous occasions that her visit and her subsequent phone call did not intimidate or influence the police officers in the Lucan detachment. Police tell us that in a situation similar to that of the Solicitor General's visit to the Lucan OPP station, any information regarding the arrest of an individual would not be given to a third party. It would only be given to the family of the arrested person or his solicitor.

We know the Solicitor General was given information in response to her inquiries about the welfare of John Whalen Jr. The Lucan police did not perceive the Solicitor General as a third party, but gave her the information because she was the Solicitor General. Is it not obvious that the police were influenced by the minister's presence to the point that they did not treat her as a private citizen?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** Let me reiterate, as I have before, that the father reassured me of the wellbeing of his son. I was well aware then that I had been misled. It was answered before. I did not inquire into the case and I did not learn that charges were laid, nor inquire into whether charges were laid. That came out much later. I believe I heard that first from my deputy after the police report was in.

**Mr Runciman:** That did not deal at all with my question. I guess the Solicitor General is suggesting by her actions that if anyone happens to wander into a police station and says, "Hey, who have you got back there? What is he charged with? Are you beating him up?" the police are going to respond to those kinds of inquiries.

That is what the Solicitor General apparently did with respect to her visit in the early morning hours in Lucan. Is that the kind of standard that she, as the top cop, the senior law enforcement officer in this province, is saying is the appropriate response that police forces across this province should have?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** Once again, if it were not a matter of personal privilege, it would be. I repeat, I have never said that I asked what he was charged with or whether he was charged or any such thing. I intended only to ask if his wellbeing was in good hands. I did not need to do that, because I had met with the father, so I simply told the police about the phone call which had prompted me to come, about my concern for the young lady's anxiety and about my sense of responsibility to ensure that I could tell her that

everything was all right, and that was not necessary because the father had been there. At no time did I inquire about the charge. I did not know if charges were laid and I never even suggested that they should tell me about that.

#### ALCOHOL ADDICTION

**Mr Callahan:** My question is to the Minister of Correctional Services. In Toronto Press Today it was reported, in an article by Maureen Murray, that the deadliest drug of all for kids is alcohol. The article, although it does not deal directly with what I am going to ask the minister, did go on to say: "‘Drugs like crack and cocaine get more public attention. But booze is undoubtedly killing more kids than any of the other drugs,’ said Norman Panzica, a senior consultant to the Council on Drug Abuse."

Can the Minister of Correctional Services describe or indicate what programs are available in the correctional system to deal with people who arrive there with observable or obvious alcohol problems at the present time?

1430

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** I would like to thank the member for his interest in the treatment and rehabilitation programs that we do have in the ministry.

As the member properly notes, a great percentage of the people who come under our care in the correctional system of this province are in some sort of need of substance abuse programming, and we have that treatment and rehabilitation programming provided by the ministry; but also I would like to note, and I think it is very interesting, that among the 5,000 people who volunteer their time with the Ministry of Correctional Services throughout this province, Alcoholics Anonymous is a very strong group that contributes greatly to the rehabilitation. They do a fantastic job, and if you would allow me, Mr Speaker, I think it is a good opportunity to thank them for the work that they do in our ministry.

**Mr Callahan:** Some time ago, I attended a conference in the United States at which they indicated that the forced—

Interjection.

**Mr Callahan:** If the member for Sarnia is not interested in this, I am.

Forced treatment is being used by correctional institutions in the United States. At first, I had thought that forced treatment would not help people who were addicted to alcohol. Apparently in the studies that they have conducted in the

United States, the results they have seem to indicate that while people are incarcerated, in fact you can use a requirement or a forced treatment program.

I would ask the minister, if he has not already looked at that, would he look at the information that is available on that and consider whether or not that is an appropriate course of action to take?

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** I would say to the member that the people in our ministry are on top of all the latest techniques and procedures that are adopted throughout the correctional systems of the world. As a matter of fact, our people in the Ontario correctional system are among the foremost in doing progressive research into programming and into treatment.

My comment to the member, though, would be that in problems such as this I do not think forced treatment is the way to go, because I think in problems such as this the person involved has to admit that there is a problem and be receptive to treatment.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr B. Rae:** I wonder if I might ask a question of the Premier, since he has quoted in the House a letter which relates to the poor judgement of the Solicitor General (Mrs Smith). Certainly that to me is the critical question. I think to all of us the question is the judgement of the Solicitor General.

When she was asked on 11 January 1989 about a case involving someone she did not know, who was not a friend of her family, and she was asked it in this House, what did she say? She said:

"I would remind the member that there is a certain process. First, a crime is investigated by the police, as it should be.... The investigation is then taken to the crown attorney to advise the police...as to whether the evidence that has been collected would substantiate a court case of a certain nature."

She then goes on to say, "It would be most improper for me to rush the police."

The question here is judgement and standards; and, I might add, double standards. Can the Premier explain why, when the Solicitor General got the phone call at one o'clock in the morning, she would not have given a similar answer to a family friend as she has given to members of this House when we raise questions about justice in this province?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I think we have gone through all the facts of this on a number of occasions. I think you have asked the Solicitor

General about her actions and why she did it. She has been forthcoming about that.

As I said, I understand my honourable friend drawing a different conclusion with respect to the appropriateness of the action, and lots of other people agree with you. I have to make judgements on the bottom line with respect to this matter and I have made that judgement.

It is like a lot of other situations. I think honourable people can have different points of view. I respect it, but I have to take the responsibility ultimately.

**Mr B. Rae:** With great respect, we all have to take responsibility, not just the Premier. The people of this whole province are going to bear some responsibility for having a Solicitor General who, in a moment of crisis, cannot distinguish between the right thing to do and what I think the vast majority of members of this House in a private judgement would say was clearly the wrong thing to do in terms of a private response to a particular issue.

I want to ask the Premier again this question of judgement, since he himself has quoted with great pride from the president of the Police Association of Ontario and he does not dissociate himself from the comments of the executive manager of the police association, who talks directly about the poor judgement of the Solicitor General.

I am asking the Premier, just what is the standard of judgement? When I have asked her questions in this House and other members have asked her about the Donaldson case, about the Wade Lawson case, she says, "I can't interfere; I can't get involved; I can't rush the police; it's not my business; there's a process out there." When she gets a call from a family friend she gives an entirely different answer and she behaves in an entirely different way. I want to ask the Premier—

**The Speaker:** The question?

**Mr B. Rae:** Does the Premier not realize that sets a double standard and is an example of judgement that just is not acceptable in a senior law officer of this province?

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I do not agree with my honourable friend's analysis of the situation. There have been a number of people, including himself, trying to draw parallels. One way or the other, judgement is exhibited on a daily basis. Sometimes, it is better than others. There are lots of judgements that in retrospect could have been better; certainly, in my particular case, maybe not in my honourable friend's case. The question

for me is: Does this warrant dismissal as a minister of the crown?

**Mr B. Rae:** She does not even think she has made a mistake. That is not what she says. She does not even think she has made a mistake.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** He disagrees with that, and that is fair enough. But I had to make those judgements, and I have made them.

**Mr Runciman:** My question is to the Solicitor General. Earlier this week, it may have been yesterday, the Premier, in reference to the situation of the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr Keyes) and the police report by the Metropolitan Toronto Police force, indicated that one of the reasons that report was made public was that the member for Kingston and The Islands himself consented to it being released.

**Mr Brandt:** An honourable gentleman.

**Mr Runciman:** An honourable gentleman indeed.

I would like to ask the minister, considering the position she has placed her leader, her government and her party in, would she also give consent to the release of this report?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** The report, as any report dealing with a case that is before the courts, should be kept confidential to the police. In any case, as has often been pointed out, police reports include many names and areas that have nothing that should be exposed. Therefore, as the general rule, police reports are not given away.

In the case of the member for Kingston and The Islands, because one person was involved and criminal charges were laid, it was the decision to voluntarily put forward that one report.

**Mr Runciman:** Accepting the Solicitor General's reservations in respect to the matters being before the courts, I think that members of this House would be interested in hearing her reaction if indeed the areas that may have impact on the court deliberations were deleted, so that only the aspects of the report dealing with her conduct on the morning of 9 April are made available to the members of this House or to members of the public.

Is the Solicitor General agreeable to that, at least, occurring? Would she consent to that?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I have often heard the Attorney General (Mr Scott) speak to the fact that he feels very strongly about this, in other cases, as precedent setting and, therefore, I would want to speak with him. I believe it would be too precedent setting.

## FOOD INDUSTRY

**Mr Tatham:** To the Minister of Agriculture and Food: In view of the recent remark by the United States Secretary of Agriculture Yeutter on the United States defence subsidies and farm sales, where he stated, "The United States will continue to subsidize sales of farm products under its export enhancement program," does the minister not feel that this action is inconsistent with the freeze on industrial milk prices imposed on our dairy producers by the federal government?

**Hon Mr Riddell:** The member for Oxford has certainly hit upon a critical concern in these General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations. Indeed, when I met with my federal counterpart on 12 May, I expressed these very same concerns on behalf of all Ontario farmers. In my view, Secretary Yeutter and his comments certainly seem to contradict the spirit of the April GATT agreement.

I can assure my colleague that I will continue to press the federal government to ensure fair and equitable treatment for our producers and I will be raising this issue again at the agriculture ministers' conference, which will be held in Saskatchewan in late July-early August.

**Mr Tatham:** In this Globe and Mail issue of 24 May, Mr Mazankowski "said he told Mr Yeutter that the basis of the decision to slap a duty of 6.6 cents a kilogram on shipments of Canadian fresh, chilled and frozen pork goes against GATT principles. If the duty is not dropped, Canada will take the case to GATT, according to Mr Mazankowski."

What took place in other countervailing duties against the pork industry?

**Hon Mr Riddell:** In the case of the countervail, which was initially levied on hogs and pork, only to have pork withdrawn, the countervailing duties were reimbursed to the hog producers' marketing board. But the real concern is the obvious harassment that our farmers are going to be subjected to as the Americans have made it obviously plain that they are going to apply their trade laws, particularly under the new omnibus trade bill that they passed in the House of Representatives.

Their activities are continuing just as much, if not more than they did before the free trade agreement was signed. Yet I look across at my Tory friends over here who supported their colleagues in having this free trade agreement signed at the expense of the farmers in this province.

## 1440

SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT  
TO POLICE STATION

**Mr B. Rae:** I want to go back to the Premier again and say to him that we have clear evidence from what the Solicitor General (Mrs Smith) has said on a number of occasions, in response to the Wade Lawson affair and in response to the Lester Donaldson shooting. She stated very emphatically how she was not going to be involved with a police investigation, was not going to touch it in any way, was not going to have anything to do with it and that had to be the clear message that went out to the people of the province.

I want to ask the Premier: He knows, as we all know, that the Police Act is coming up for major review and major revision, that it is enormously important legislation, as well as extraordinarily sensitive legislation with respect to the relationship between the police commissioners—a new role for police commissioners. It is going to be very challenging legislation to handle in this Legislature. Does he not realize the extent to which the judgement of his own Solicitor General has now been called into question and the impact that this is going to have on the Police Act discussions which we expect to have this summer and well into the fall?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** This government has done a great deal in improving policing in this province. It is working very hard on a new Police Act and it will be brought forward reasonably shortly for full public discussion. I think at that point people will put their minds to the substance of that new legislation and be quite happy about it. I think we are quite capable of doing those things and I think there is lots of credibility.

## PETITIONS

## HOME CARE

**Mr Pollock:** I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We the undersigned beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows: We support the expansion of home care and visiting nurses services as the most cost-efficient mode of health care delivery. We therefore want our government to adequately fund the Victorian Order of Nurses."

It is signed by 13 people and I have affixed my signature to this petition.

**Mr Sola:** I have two petitions. I have one for the Victorian Order of Nurses identical to the one that was just read, with 21 signatures.

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Mr Sola:** I also have another one which reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, petition our government on the following problem:

"We are employed by Sunwheel Bicycle Couriers Ltd either full- or part-time as bicycle couriers and support staff. We have been informed by Hilda and Barbara, the operators of the company, that Workers' Compensation Board has changed our job classification from 709 to 656, which means from taxi to trucking, with the effect that the company's Workers' Compensation Board payments will double. We understand that our operation will have to close down if this is enforced."

There are four other points to it and there are about 170 signatures.

## MOTIONS

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon Mr Conway moved that the order of precedence for private members' public business be amended as follows: ballot item 7, Mrs Sullivan for Mr Cleary; ballot item 10, Mr Ballinger for Mrs Sullivan; ballot item 16, Ms Collins for Mr Campbell; ballot item 78, Mr Cleary for Mr Ballinger, and ballot item 92, Mr Campbell for Ms Collins.

**The Speaker:** I know some of you were paying attention to the motion.

Motion agreed to.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Hon Mr Conway moved that the membership for the special committee on the parliamentary precinct shall be: the Speaker and the chairman of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly as co-chairmen, and Mr Breaugh, Mr Reycraft and Mr Sterling.

Motion agreed to.

### STANDING ORDERS

Hon Mr Conway moved that the provisional standing orders be extended to remain in effect until 12 midnight on Monday, 31 July 1989.

Motion agreed to.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILL

### EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

Mr R. F. Johnston moved first reading of Bill 28, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** What it intends to do is change the employment standards regulations around pregnancy leave to deal with parental leave in Ontario. It would adjust the qualifying period, which is now at 63 weeks of employment, down to six months; it would also extend the period in which one could draw unemployment insurance benefits from 15 weeks to 25 weeks, and it would provide for leave for adoptive parents and for fathers as well.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### BUDGET DEBATE

(continued)

**Mr Pouliot:** Members who were present at the House yesterday will recall that I did indeed welcome the opportunity to highlight the good deeds which represented the government at its best: some breakthroughs, some relief for the less fortunate.

I again took the opportunity to point out the tax grab, the Wilson-Nixon tax bash, that resulted in more than \$1 billion for the second consecutive year—not a one-shot deal—being extracted systematically from the pockets of the middle class in Ontario at a time when there was no need; when minor readjustment would have resulted in the status quo and given the taxpayers a chance to breathe; a chance to recover from last year's provincial budget; a chance to believe and again recover from the latest, on 17 May, provincial budget.

I had the opportunity yesterday to focus on specific needs for the special part of Ontario which represents nine tenths of the land mass, because it is the people of the north more than anyone else—

**The Deputy Speaker:** There are many private conversations. Please, I would like to hear the member for Lake Nipigon. You may proceed.

1450

**Mr Pouliot:** At a time when Ontario is enjoying the experience for the seventh or eighth consecutive year of what has been an unprecedented period of recovery or prosperity, the measures introduced by the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) as part of his budget only serve to fuel suspicion. For two consecutive years, an extra \$1 billion has been taken from the pockets of the taxpayers of Ontario. Expenditures are being lessened.

It brings one to follow the actions of previous governments or previous Treasurers, when they are in a situation where a majority government is

the rule of the day. Traditionally it has been reported that one socks it to the taxpayers in the first year of a majority government, whether the economic climate demands it or not. One never underestimates the ability of the taxpayers to fork over more money. Then one deliberately punishes them in the second year of a four-year term, whether we need it or not.

The reason is quite simple. The government seems to be telling the taxpayers: "You as taxpayers have a good memory but it is rather short. We will take the surplus. We will hide it left and right and when election time comes and we need your vote, then we are really nice people. We will use your own money and we will go back to bribing you." This is what this document tells us. The document of last year, almost to the day—if there is any such terminology—tells us again that when one goes back to the well, then one socks it to the taxpayers.

I just happen to have a headline from one of the papers in Thunder Bay, a community of some 115,000 people, some 900 miles north of Toronto. "The Tax-Go-Round: How Much Longer?" This is not the Toronto Star. We do not get verbal pats on the back or accolades of six or seven columns. These people are talking in terms of the north. It is their responsibility to report what is happening to the north and offer editorials and suggestions. They are saying: "You have gone too far, Bob Nixon. Enough is enough." We are enjoying good prosperity. It is time to share and share alike. The north has not benefited.

This headline is in the same paper on the day after, "Budget Hits Drivers in the North Harder." It would not be so bad if the Treasurer had a plan in the expenditure part of the budget, not in the part that takes taxes. He does that very well, better than any other government has ever done it before.

But it says on the other side of the ledger: "This is what we will be spending. We will be four-laning Highway 17. We have been talking about that for years. It will help people go to work. They have no alternative but to use the highways up north. We will offer better maintenance. It will attract tourism. It will attract industry. But it is very costly, so we will be realistic. We will not use the word 'vision.' We are going to use 'planning.' Vision will take care of itself. We are going to tell them that on a step-by-step basis, we will do 10 or 15 miles a year. We will commit, let's say, \$20 million."

One heck of a lot of money came out of the north; very little—the words are not too strong—is coming back in tangible measures. There is no such thing.

When we talk about doctors, dentists, audiologists, speech pathologists, physiotherapists and the whole gamut of health services, what is the government doing, in terms of universities in the north, to train people? There are five in southern Ontario. Is it asking for too much, while there are all those services that are taken for granted within a subway ride—and they do excellent things in southern Ontario—we hardly have access to a referral system in many cases, and when we do, we consider ourselves less privileged?

But we are also filled with fear and anxiety that it will be shortlived and that tomorrow we will go back to the well trying again to end the cycle of attracting and then retaining essential services.

Unconditional grants: Again, at a time when the economy of Ontario has never been better, unconditional grants to municipalities in southern Ontario do not mean quite the same as they do up north. They do not represent the same percentage of total revenue, because we do not have that commercial tax base to nearly the same magnitude as they have, for instance, on University Avenue. We have very little, so we rely on the unconditional grants to provide essential services.

They represent some 20.8 per cent, on the average, of the communities in northern Ontario. Why does the Treasurer not increase that part of the budget, at least to cover the rate of inflation? We will not be any further ahead, but at least we could begin to breathe, to keep pace, and the straitjacket would loosen a bit.

That is how one does things for the north. Those are the opportunities that were given to the Treasurer; to stop, as I mentioned yesterday, the kind of double-digit attack for general and school purposes that he has placed on the people who really have less in terms of average. The budget does very little to recognize the special needs of northern Ontario, a region that contributes so much to the welfare of all Ontarians with its natural resources and the talents of its people.

The Treasurer is paying us the compliment of his presence, which is not unusual; the Treasurer has an outstanding record of attendance in this House. I spoke yesterday about what appeared to be an important anomaly, and other members joined in their collective surprise. I would like to draw the attention of the Treasurer to page 29 of his creation, the budget document. Under "Summary Tables," it says "Taxation changes." I want

to go back to that, because the style being employed here bothers me a great deal.

"Vehicles for physically disabled," \$1 million expected revenue in the full year. I would hope we would be privileged with information, because when I read this document with no explaining memo—and I know it is not meant that way; it is not presented that way; I can well accept that—it is little wonder that one would ask the question. I think it is a normal reaction and that the Treasurer will privilege the House with his answer.

While we have the attention of the Treasurer, perhaps he could have an assistant take down another page number. The first one was page 29; the second one is page 18.

It deals with "Schedule of Tax Levels on Fuel Inefficient Cars." Then again, it gives us the tax on highway fuel consumption ratings for guzzlers, cars that use a lot of gas.

I am just wondering, since I come from a region where the families are somewhat larger than those in southern Ontario, what we are talking about. It does not talk about words that I have difficulty reading, like Mercedes-Benz, BMW and the like, those cars for the rich people. I am concerned about a Chevrolet station wagon. If you have three or four children—

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Where is that list?

**Mr Pouliot:** On page 18, it says "Highway fuel consumption ratings."

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Where is that list of a Chevrolet station wagon?

**Mr Pouliot:** This is what I am asking the Treasurer, to make sure that if I have four or five children at home, I will not pay an extra \$3,500.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** You will not, unless it is a Mercedes station wagon or a Porsche station wagon.

**Mr Pouliot:** The Treasurer will be given an opportunity. It does not tell me that. It tells me that it is so many kilometres per gallon.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** That information is readily available.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. One member at a time.

1500

**Mr Pouliot:** The people of our riding have asked me to convey their concern, with respect, of course, to the Treasurer, because they will be paying fully eight per cent tax on those vehicles to start with. They will be paying higher prices for licences, higher prices for gas, higher prices for tires, and now they are wondering if they are

going to be paying, on top of all those taxes—and I am forgetting some—an additional \$3,000 should they fail to meet the ratio because they need a bigger car to transport the family. I am just wondering. That and the \$1 million of anticipated revenue on wheelchairs. Well, it does not say wheelchairs; it says vehicles for the disabled.

I would like to ask one last question, if I may, of the Treasurer, and again I am sure he would like to favour the House. It has to do with Ontario Hydro, the utility company responsible for more than 50 per cent of the debt in Ontario; the second Ontario government, if you wish.

Those people have a lot of clout. I am sure the Treasurer has had some discussion with Ontario Hydro. In fact, as I read the papers, I am told he knows them rather well. Since he does know them rather well, the Treasurer must not burn bridges, but he talks about making sure that Ontario Hydro will accelerate its payment or its obligation towards the provincial debt, or its debt, which is guaranteed by the province, by the resources and the people of Ontario.

I would like to know from the Treasurer, how much will that direction, that obligation, mean when I get my Hydro bill in a place where it is anywhere from 20 per cent to 30 per cent higher than the rest of Ontario? What is it going to do to me when I get my bill at the end of the month? Is it going to mean two per cent? Is it going to mean extra for my water rental tax? What is the projection there?

There again, the people of the north, who use more electricity and who pay more for the electricity, their essential service, want to know what it means in their pockets at the end of the month, because there is not much left and it is an important utility. We pay a high percentage indeed just to stay alive.

I have insisted on being positive, on being complimentary on the measures that were introduced by the government. I spent a rather good deal of time yesterday talking about the fundamentals, about what needed to be done so we would at long last have tax fairness.

I want to tell the Treasurer of Ontario that he has missed an opportunity, perhaps like never before, an opportunity that does not present itself too often. By virtue of economic cycles, he does not always have the chance to seize that opportunity when it passes.

The people of the north were watching. They were watching with apprehension and fear because the saturation point has been reached, and it was more vivid with the last provincial budget when \$1 billion was taken out of the

economy. With the Wilson-Nixon combined tax bash, we are very close to saturation.

I want to convey to the Treasurer that some members of the opposition, with respect, feel that this document was nothing short of gluttonous, that this document represents the proverbial straw, that we really cannot take it any more, that our lifestyle is being jeopardized and essential services are being restricted by virtue of inability to pay, for we have less and less money available.

The Treasurer, or another Treasurer with the same government, before the next provincial election will be given the chance to release the thrust that is needed to make northern Ontario a better place to live, and just as important, so that the people, one more time, at long last, will be the partners of planning, of systematic economic development, and will not have to literally be dealing with anxieties and be left at the mercy of some other people down south who seem to care very little and represent our aspirations very little.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I always appreciate hearing the remarks of the honourable member for Lake Nipigon, who is a sensible person indeed and always has something worth while to say, and I appreciate that, other than some of his negative stuff.

He says it is his birthday today, and when one gets to be 39, no wonder he feels so good.

He mentioned the item having to do with what appears to be revenue from the disabled. As a matter of fact, this is a reduction in the amount of money that is being allocated to assist the disabled in providing themselves with transportation. Up until this budget, there was no limit on the sales tax rebate. We now have put a limit of sales tax rebate on \$20,000 worth of car and \$30,000 worth of van. We felt it was a bit much when we were asked to pay the full sales tax rebate on a Mercedes Benz, for example, and on other types of super-expensive sports cars. There is no reason why handicapped people should not have those, but we feel it is inappropriate that we pay the sales tax on all but the part I am referring to.

The honourable member made some sort of reference to the fact that northern families are larger than families in the south. If I had said that, it might be a matter for an adjournment for a debate on a matter of special importance while we determine what it is about the north that makes the honourable member and his friends so fecund. Perhaps he will tell me about that.

**Mr Breaugh:** That is not a problem you have to deal with, at any rate.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** No.

I think the honourable member should set his troubled mind at rest that the list of so-called gas guzzlers does not include family station wagons.

Unfortunately, I do not have time to deal definitively with the Ontario Hydro guaranteed fee.

**Mr Philip:** People have to live in their cars because you have not provided them with accommodation.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** That is not right.

**Mr Pollock:** Does the member for Lake Nipigon want to respond? I am not on the two minutes.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr M. C. Ray):** There are some who do not want to participate within the rules.

**Mr Pouliot:** I have a lot of respect for the Treasurer and I, too, appreciate the answers given to specific questions as well as the good wishes on the small event and his kindness in treating me gently when we were seeking information.

I want to answer the minister on what is really not a joke or a laughing matter. I was stating a fact. We know of the need of the people of northern Ontario. It is a fact that it is indeed a very good place to bring up a family. The water is good to drink, we have fresh air and we do not have the choice to make, at times, between a first, second or in some cases other financial arrangements under the auspices of mortgages. We do not have to make those difficult choices. For us, they are not difficult. It is a matter of conscience and it is the way we see the essence of life, for instance.

What we are saying, though, is that we share the same needs as other people. The government must fund our schools in a better way. It must hear our voices when we turn towards the south and say, "Give us an equal share." The government's job, its duty, its obligation, its mandate is to say that there are people who are past Steeles Avenue or Parry Sound—with respect to Parry Sound, the real north—the near north, the real north and the far north, and those people deserve special attention. Their needs are special. They do not have that much of a tax base. They do not have a huge population. More than anyone else, when it comes to basic and essential services, their voices should be heard.

**Mr Pollock:** I am certainly pleased to take part in this debate; there are certainly a few things I would like to put on the record in regard to this budget. Of course, one of the main things is the fact that the budget of the Ministry of Natural Resources actually got cut. I do not mean "cut" in the sense that it just did not keep pace with inflation; it actually is down from last year's budget.

That is a major concern to me because I have a letter from a person who stated that the Ministry of Natural Resources last year planted well over half a million trees less than it did the year before. Also, at estimates when we were discussing conservation authorities—and, of course, conservation authorities plant trees too—it was mentioned that 60 per cent of the trees planted by conservation authorities died last year because of the drought. No doubt some of the trees that were planted by the Ministry of Natural Resources died too. So we have a major reduction in the trees that actually should have been growing here in Ontario.

I also have some concerns about the fact that our forest firefighting crews have been cut. We have had some major fires in the past three years: just to name two of them, Red 7 and Kenora 14. Of course, the minister has retaliated by saying that municipal volunteer firefighters should pick up the slack; they should be the ones to help out in fighting forest fires. I think we all realize that these volunteer firefighters do not have the infrastructure to fight forest fires. They have not been trained. They do not have the all-terrain vehicles, the helicopters and water bombers to fight forest fires. I believe that the Ministry of Natural Resources should be providing forest firefighting crews to protect our forests because these major forest fires have burned over a lot of our timberland.

In the estimates of the Ministry of Natural Resources, we mentioned the particular fire known as Kenora 14. It started in a garbage dump on a Saturday night a little over a year ago. To start with, there should have been a barricade around that garbage dump so that, even if it did catch fire, it could not spread into the forest. When it did spread into the forest, the forest fire moved moved north, and as it moved north it went up into a kind of bottleneck in between two lakes. There is also a railroad line going across there. Just looking at that map, one would naturally expect that that fire should have been cut off at that particular point in time. However, it got through that bottleneck and burned a large section of timber on the other side of those lakes.

I mentioned to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr Kerrio) at estimates that it could well be beneficial to have an independent group study that particular fire to see why it was not cut off at that particular point and also to have the critics for both of the opposition parties sit down and listen to what they have to say. Maybe this independent group would agree with everything that the Ministry of Natural Resources fire crews had done, but I think it would have been very beneficial to have a meeting like that and an independent group study that particular fire. I did not expect the Minister of Natural Resources to jump up and say he would go for it, but I really expected he would come back with a reply. But as of yet I have received no reply on that particular request.

Also, we have some major concerns all over Ontario about deer harming our orchards. It costs approximately \$10,000 an acre to set out an orchard. In certain areas of this province the deer are really affecting those orchards. For instance, in Prince Edward county, and I am sure the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr MacDonald) would back me up on this, they are causing a lot of damage. The county council of Prince Edward county has recommended that farmers have the right to protect their property against predators. Deer and animals like that are excluded, but they feel that even deer should be shot if they are destroying orchards.

The ministry staff at Napanee have investigated this and they claim that 89.7 per cent of the trees in an orchard there are damaged by deer. Only 10.3 per cent of all those trees in this one person's particular orchard have not been damaged, and 20 per cent of these trees are referred to as being mutilated, meaning that they have been more or less completely destroyed. The bucks go out there and they break the branches off the trees, and once that happens, those trees are pretty well lost for ever. They either die or are of very little value as far as producing apples is concerned.

We should have money in the Ministry of Natural Resources to compensate these farmers, or the minister should be prepared to do something in that regard. We also are falling behind on our fish stocking programs. As I mentioned, there is not money in the budget for some of these particular items.

The budget of the Minister of Natural Resources should have been keeping pace with inflation, plus having that \$10 million in his budget that he receives out of the annual fishing licences to do some of these particular things that would help

out as far as protecting our natural resources is concerned.

My colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr Pouliot) was talking about gas guzzlers in the budget. I have a list here of some of the cars that are classified as gas guzzlers. It mentions Volvo, Chevrolet Corvette, Chrysler Fifth Avenue, Mercedes-Benz, Porsche; it also mentions Ford Crown Victoria and Mercury Marquis and, of course, going down the list, Jaguar, Rolls Royce and some of these very expensive cars.

In one way, I agree with having an extra tax on these cars, but the strange thing about this list that I have is that there are 54 makes of cars on this list and only two of these cars are made in Ontario. That is fine. It all sounds good, but I can tell the members a little story.

When we were the government, we tried a situation like this. We wanted to protect our grape industry, so we put a handling charge on any foreign wines coming into this country. That went along for a while until some of our foreign friends caught on to it, and they told us to get that handling tax off foreign wines or they would retaliate.

I have a feeling that when all these foreign car manufacturers find out that we are putting an extra tax on their cars, they will retaliate, because the people who work in these foreign countries making these cars are not likely making any more money than the people at Ford or General Motors. Nor are the companies that make these cars likely making nearly as much as Ford, General Motors or Chrysler. So I am a little afraid that we are leaving ourselves wide open for some retaliation in this regard.

1520

I also have some concerns about our agricultural industry.

We do not seem to have all the information, in fact, very little of the information, right at the present time on the farm tax rebate. In a recent question by, I believe, the member for Algoma (Mr Wildman) to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr Riddell), he was asking about what percentage of assistance there was for farmers. The minister got up and said that since 1984 he had upped his budget about 70 per cent. Well, since 1984 we have upped taxes over a hundred per cent. So the farm community is actually losing when we use those figures.

That is a major concern of mine and, as I mentioned, I would like to hear more. I want to know the criteria that are going to be used for the farm tax rebate.

I know there is a lot of dissatisfaction out there in regard to our 4-H clubs. They do not seem to be getting the direction from the ministry. They are leaving it up to local volunteers to more or less handle our 4-H clubs. There is a major concern that 4-H clubs are actually falling behind and not getting the direction and the assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food that they should have. After all, they are our future farmers and our future citizens and we should pay a lot more attention to 4-H clubs and give them all the assistance we possibly can.

We know also that production of a lot of agricultural products is down. That possibly is because of the drought last year, but we also should be assisting our farmers far more than we are.

These are some of the things I wanted to put on the record, concerns of mine about my riding and some of the problems that we have right across Ontario in regard to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

**Hon Mr Conway:** First of all, I want to say that it is a pleasure for me to have the opportunity to listen to my friend from Stirling address his comments to the budget. As always, he did so with a directness and with a candour that make him so very attractive in Hastings and in the Legislature. His friends tell me that in political terms he is almost as sweet as Stirling butter, but I do not know whether that is true or not.

I want simply to address a concern he did raise, which has to do with the funding of the Ministry of Natural Resources, because I think the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) has quite rightly recognized the importance of the forest sector in the province generally, and certainly my friend the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr Pollock) would agree with me that in our part of eastern Ontario it plays a very important role.

The point the honourable member made in his comments had to do with the fact that in the tables attached to the budget document it appears that the overall totals allocated to the Ministry of Natural Resources this year are lower than they were last year. In this respect, the numbers are a little misleading. I myself have taken this up with the Treasurer. The reason that there is the difference of which the honourable member makes mention is simply that last year there was added an extraordinary figure of some \$50 million, arising out of the very dry summer that we had with a very, very high firefighting bill. We hope that is not reincurred this year.

In fact, I say to my friend the member for Hastings-Peterborough, the overall commitment to the Ministry of Natural Resources, apart from the firefighting account, I believe, is up. It may be that we are going to see that total increase, because we do not know now what the firefighting commitments will be this year as compared to last year.

I repeat, one of the things that was built into last year's figure but was not really budgeted for in the first instance was the cost of preventing fires in the forests of Ontario, and that incurred expense, which was an extraordinary expense, was something of a total of \$50 million.

**Mr J. M. Johnson:** I would just like to make a few comments in support of the concerns expressed by the member for Hastings-Peterborough about the cutback in funding for the Ministry of Natural Resources.

It is my understanding that there will be a straightlining or indeed a reduction in the funding for the Ministry of Natural Resources, yet a commitment was made to the sport fishing community in this province that if its members would buy \$10 licences, supposedly \$10 million would go into programs of the Ministry of Natural Resources for fish restocking and for the benefit of the sport fishing industry.

It does not seem to make much sense if the ministry's budget is reduced by \$2 million instead of increasing it by the inflation factor; there will not be the same amount of dollars in it. If the \$10 million were taken out, there would be a substantial reduction of about \$12 million.

The minister has simply taken the sport fishing licence fee and used it to pay for some of the other areas in his ministry. This is completely contrary to the promise that was made to the sport fishing people. They were promised by the minister that every dollar taken in would be used to benefit their sports field and not used for other purposes.

The member for Hastings-Peterborough has raised this question and it is one that the ministry should consider. Certainly the minister who has just responded, the government House leader and the member for Renfrew North (Mr Conway), should take this message to his Treasurer and say that the sport fishing people are very tired of seeing their dollars squandered.

**Mr Pollock:** In answer to my friend the member for Renfrew North, it was my understanding that the budget of the Ministry of Natural Resources was cut approximately \$2 million. As he said, that was because of a big bill last year for firefighting. But let's face it, on a down year, we should build up our equipment.

We should buy more water bombers and have more equipment on hand to fight these forest fires and be more prepared. When a forest fire starts, you just cannot start making the water bombers then. You have to have the equipment ahead of time. You have to have the trained crews out there. You have to have all this equipment ready to go at that particular point in time. You cannot just wait for that, once a forest fire starts.

It certainly is a major concern of mine, and I know there are people in the northern part of my riding who have expressed their concerns about the cutback in fire crews. They have not only cut back on the number that is in a fire crew, but they have cut back on the number of firefighters.

As I say, this is a concern not just in my riding but all across the province of Ontario. We should protect our forests. We are continually talking about preserving areas like the Amazon jungle and that sort of thing, yet we are not planting trees and preserving our own forests right here in the province of Ontario. It is a major concern right across the province. As I say, the severe drought affected a lot of trees last year, but we should be prepared to make that up this year if it happens to be a good growing year.

Those are some of the concerns I have.

**1530**

**Mr Adams:** It is a pleasure for me to join this debate on the recent budget.

If a child in junior kindergarten were to come up to you and say that our entire economy depends on the existence of his or her school, I suspect that your first reaction would be one of amusement or at least bemusement. If a patient in a hospital, perhaps a senior, asserted that the success of businesses in Ontario depends on the existence of his or her hospital, most people would dismiss the suggestion as preposterous. Yet we often hear and accept without second thought the assertion that our social system depends on the economy.

The fact is that all of these assertions are wrong. The kindergarten student and the hospital patient are wrong because the economy is not some sort of a parasite living on our social support system. But neither is the social system that we have developed some sort of a parasite living off the economy. The relationship between the economy and our social system is one of mutual dependence; each depends on the other.

The fact is that in the middle and long terms it is impossible to sustain a sound business environment without an effective social system. Similarly, it is not possible to have an effective

social system without a healthy business or economic base.

It is very important that we all be very conscious of the true nature of relationships between what we think of as the social and business sides of our society. If we forget that they are mutually dependent, there is a danger that we can overemphasize one at the expense of the other.

If we go back to the very origins of human society as we know it, we discover that things economic and social have been mutually dependent from the start. Only when human beings developed a social structure which sustained peace and provided time for the exercise of creativity did the creation of wealth through what we think of as business become possible.

Farming, for example, was not possible without a stable way of life in which ideas and property could be passed from one generation to another. Time and time again, new farming communities with villages in which skills were passed from one generation to another must have fallen back to a more primitive economic condition or been wiped completely because of the failure of their social system.

Yet there is a sort of catch in this: a certain amount of wealth, creativity and, if you like, business acumen was necessary before any one of those early farming communities could come into existence. Also, if they ceased to be efficient and productive, they could not sustain the social system upon which their way of life depended.

It is a sort of a chicken-and-egg conundrum. No one can say which came first, the chicken or the egg; the economy or the social structure. All we know is that some groups succeeded in solving this conundrum and produced great civilizations. Other groups did not solve the problem and they simply disappeared.

In some cases, the failures of a community may have been the result of a failure of what we think of as business. The groups concerned simply were not productive enough to survive. In other cases, no doubt, the failures were the result of social collapse. Highly productive groups just simply could not develop stable, creative social structures.

It is not possible to separate the social policies of a government from its economic policies. They are simply different sides of the same coin. Good governments know this and are constantly aware that without effective social policies the economy will fail, and that without a sound economic base, social policies cannot be sustained.

Most developing countries today are still struggling with the chicken-and-egg problem which some of our ancestors solved. They cannot get their business and industries going because of social chaos, yet they cannot come to grips with the social chaos because they lack the wealth which businesses and industry provide.

Mr Speaker, I apologize for speaking at such length on what I know, to you personally and to my colleagues on this side of the House, is a self-evident truth. We know that the social and business sides of our society are interdependent, that each depends on the other. I felt compelled to explain these simple facts again, because of the reactions of both opposition parties and some sections of the media to this government's speech from the throne and budget.

I think these reactions were coloured by the fact that our speech from the throne, which preceded the budget, by complete coincidence was delivered within a couple of days of the federal budget. As a result, there has been a tendency to compare the two budgets and the policies they reflect. In making this comparison, some have tried to characterize the Ontario budget as a social document and the federal budget as a business document.

Nothing could be further from the truth. It is true that our budget contains a great deal which will influence our social systems for generations to come. It is in many ways a remarkable and memorable social document.

Illustrations of this include the emphasis on improved and relevant education and training; the emphasis on the Transitions approach to social security, turning welfare cheques into pay cheques and otherwise allowing all members of society to be productive; the emphasis on promoting healthy lifestyles and preventing illness, rather than allowing people to become sick and then trying to cure them; the emphasis on a clean and safe environment, in part so we do not poison ourselves, in part so we develop an economy which is sustainable; the emphasis on community safety and security is another example of this.

I would suggest that all of these thrusts of the budget are sound business practices, as well as being humane and creative social policies.

Think back again to the early farming communities in which our civilization began. They depended on their ability to pass on ideas and skills between generations. We call that education and training. They looked after their sick and unfortunate, trying to maintain them as producing members of the community. We call this

health care and social assistance. They looked after the old, because they knew that the experience of their elders represented a treasure upon which the community depended. We are not the first information society. They were concerned about safety and security, because without it, village life collapsed. They were concerned about a clean and safe environment, because if the village well became poisoned, they all died.

The early community that solved these problems was, members will recall, the successful community. It thrived and became rich and part of the foundation of our great and productive modern civilization. The village which did not deal with these problems, the problems addressed so forcefully in our budget, collapsed and disappeared.

That brings me to what some characterize as the business budget, presented by the federal Tories. This is a savage, shortsighted social document, which slashes social programs which affect the lives of children, workers and seniors. It undermines the confidence of those who are sick and of all the rest of us who will one day be sick.

I do not want to talk about humanity or morality here; I simply want to point out that this sort of thing is simply not businesslike in a modern economy.

We all receive social assistance at one time or another. As children, we receive children's allowance. As students, we receive educational support. When we are sick, we receive health care and when we are old, we receive pensions that we have earned in our lifetimes.

This support is not provided as charity. It is of course something we all pay for. It is provided to make us as productive as possible. We support children so that they will grow up as stable, happy, creative and productive adults. We educate students so that they can contribute to and sustain our complex society. We support hospitals and other health care systems to get people through periods of sickness or to allow them to remain productive by avoiding illness. We support seniors so they can continue to contribute to society after retirement while reaping some of the rewards for productive lives.

1540

There is nothing businesslike about neglecting such things. The federal government has forgotten that the economy and the social system depend on one another. If you savage the one, you inevitably savage the other. But the federal document is not a sound economic document,

even if we take a narrow view of the business sector of our society. The federal budget reads to me as a panicky attempt by the Tory government to catch up after four years of mismanagement. Any good business person knows a sound business must have a long-range plan. It cannot afford simply to react to the whims of the day.

The federal government has at last begun to move on the huge debt it has allowed to develop. Do members realize that the annual deficit of the federal government is in the same order of magnitude, over \$30 billion, as the entire debt of this great province? The federal payments on its debt this year alone would virtually pay off the entire debt of Ontario. Further, the increase in the annual federal deficit that was reported in their last budget was over \$2 billion. That increase alone is four times greater than this province's entire annual deficit.

I suggest that the only businesslike approach to problems as large as the federal debt, and indeed to the problems of debt which affect so many levels of our society, is that of consistent long-term policies. The government of Ontario, for example, has cut its annual deficit to 20 per cent of what it was when the Liberal government took over only three years ago. It has lowered the cost of servicing its debt to the lowest level in 20 or more years.

Since coming to power, the Liberal government has adopted a firm policy that all programs must pay their way. In all program areas, we operate on a pay-as-you-go basis, not only in this budget but in each budget since we came to power. True, we have benefited from a thriving economy, but we have deliberately invested surplus funds in long-neglected infrastructure such as roads, hospitals and schools. In this budget, 80 per cent of such capital spending is covered from cash flow.

As is proper, we have a long-range plan for these investments. In education, for example, the Minister of Education (Mr Ward) has announced a multi-year program involving hundreds of millions of dollars in school construction and repair each year over the next several years. These schools are of enormous importance socially, but from a strict business point of view, this long-term investment plan has to be considered as being as important as the investments themselves. This long-range strategy allows school boards to plan ahead and make best possible use of funds and allows the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon), too, to plan ahead in terms of financing these and other projects.

This is an example of social policy at its business best. Yet some people claim that the federal budget is a business document and the Ontario budget is a social document. They claim that the Peterson government is a social government and the Mulroney government is a business government. How can a federal government be viewed as businesslike when it is drowning in debt, when it lacks long-term strategy and vision, when it shows no understanding of the simple and fundamental fact that the role of government is to sustain both the social and economic aspects of our society? Because neither one can thrive without the other. The government of Ontario is the social government in Canada, possibly in the world, simply because it is businesslike. The government of Ontario is the business government today because it has a social conscience and a social plan.

I have to apologize once again for going on at some length about relationships between social policy and business policy, but I think these things should be discussed publicly from time to time, as good government depends on an understanding of them. These are relationships which are well understood within the progressive business community, and the only businesses that last are those which are progressive in one way or another.

The Canadian task force on business recently concluded that the cost of illiteracy in this country is \$4 billion every year. This is a matter which is addressed in our speech from the throne and budget. Would it be businesslike not to address something which drains \$4 billion each year from the economy? Conversely, if the lack of literacy costs us so much, would it be businesslike not to sustain, through a renewed emphasis on education, that portion of the population which is literate? If the illiterate cost us billions of dollars, it is the literate who earn us hundreds of billions of dollars.

Businesses and industries in Peterborough riding know that our social system is an essential part of our economic system. Management and labour devoted large sums of money and effort to the founding of Trent University and continue to support it and Sir Sandford Fleming College. The entire community supports the fund-raising efforts of the hospitals.

Industries such as the Outboard Marine Corporation support the arts and recreation in Peterborough, knowing that our society depends on creativity of all kinds. A large number of businesses in Peterborough riding support apprenticeships and other forms of training which

are supported by this budget. Fisher Gauge Ltd, a high-tech company founded and developed in Peterborough which now exports 90 per cent of its products, has a deliberate policy of what it calls investing in social policies and projects of all kinds. For example, it recently seconded a person full time to reorganize apprenticeship programs in the community.

The Quaker Oats Co, Ethicon Ltd and Surgikos Canada Inc, among others, have been leaders in employee health and training programs. They know that in health matters, prevention is better than cure and that in these times of rapid technological change, training is a continuous process, a sensible investment for businesses in the future.

The Canadian General Electric Co and its workers in Peterborough have a similar record of social service and concern. They have, for example, been leaders in the Participation Challenge, a fitness event every year in the community, which now involves almost 50 local employers.

Many Peterborough employers and union personnel are also leaders in environmental activity. They know that development is sustainable only if it is environmentally sound. In the past it has been possible for an individual or a company to take a quick personal profit at the expense of the environment but at enormous eventual cost to society. Peterborough has two members on the Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy, which is addressing these matters at the provincial level. But the community also has its own round table on sustainable development, and this has been in operation for some time.

Those in business and industry, management and workers, know the matters addressed in the Ontario budget are basic to good business in this province, just as they are basic to real quality of life in Ontario. In my list of the social activities of business and labour groups in Peterborough, Mr Speaker, did you notice an echo of the themes of our speech from the throne and budget—a concern for sound education and training, a concern for quality health care, a concern for a clean and safe environment and a concern for retraining of those who are unemployed, all based on a concern for a sound economy?

In Peterborough riding we know that social policy is good economic policy and vice versa. I would like to return to my point about infrastructure spending by this government. I pointed out that we are spending heavily on roads, schools,

hospitals and so on and that we have a long-term strategy for that spending.

1550

When the Liberal government came into power in 1985, it discovered that the provincial infrastructure had been neglected for years, if not decades. We all know that in some years, there is simply no money or energy to fix up such things as roads, schools or hospitals, but we also know that sooner or later, one way or another, we have to fix them or the infrastructure system will collapse. In 1985, the government faced the task of catching up on neglected roads, schools, colleges and hospitals.

We have found the money, including in this budget, and we have developed a plan which extends over many years to counteract that neglect. I point out again that this is a pay-as-you-go policy, borrowing as little as possible for those long-range expenditures.

It happens that I cannot at the moment recite the provincial figures on infrastructure spending, but I do know how those expenditures are affecting Peterborough riding.

For the first time in almost 20 years, there is construction going on at Trent University, to the tune of over \$10 million. This is largely for an environmental science building, which will be a great asset to our region, including the Kawartha Lakes.

At Sir Sandford Fleming College, an advanced manufacturing centre is being completed, at a cost to the province of over \$7 million. This will serve students and businesses in our area.

Civic Hospital will at last have its new emergency facility, at a cost of over \$10 million in provincial funds. This will complement the new ambulance centre that has already been built.

Our schools received \$36 million this year alone for new buildings and repairs. That is an unprecedented total.

Tens of millions of dollars are being spent on Highway 115 alone. Combined with moneys spent on Highway 28, this example of local infrastructure spending may well represent over \$50 million before the Highway 115 project is completed on schedule in 1992.

The impact of this budget and its associated policies on infrastructure spending is reflected in my riding alone, Peterborough riding, to the tune of over \$120 million.

I have stressed infrastructure spending, spending on concrete, mortar, bricks and steel, but I could make similar points about the social side of the budget. Its emphasis on the environment is

supported by those involved with the Scott's Plains Recycling Centre, by the elementary school students who have supported the environmental movement in Peterborough, by the seniors who have supported recycling in Peterborough, by the townships of Peterborough county which have moved to put in recycling projects.

The health care portions of this budget are reflected in Peterborough riding through the new base-line health survey, which is being conducted there at this very moment. It is reflected in the projects against smoking in the schools, against alcohol use in the schools, which are being conducted this very day.

The concerns of the budget for health care are also reflected, as I have mentioned, in the industries and unions which are involved in employee health care programs. Further, the local branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Hospice Peterborough, the Peterborough Red Cross and the homemaker groups all appreciate the support they have received in this budget.

When we are calm, most of us recognize that diversity is one of the greatest strengths of the human species. Only by maintaining diversity do we maximize creativity. Only by nurturing diversity do we provide a reasonable hedge against whatever the future may hold. If I might use the analogy of the importance of diversity for the entire global ecosystem, of which we human beings are one small part, why is it that we become so concerned when there is a danger of one species, say a species of whale or eagle, becoming extinct? There are millions of life forms on the planet, so why worry about one?

We all have our reasons for worrying. However, in this case, the fundamental reason is that we wish to maintain as diverse a gene pool as possible on the globe. We have no way of predicting the long-term future of the global ecosystem so we must be prepared for every possible eventuality. Who could have predicted during the millennia that the highly successful dinosaurs dominated that mammals and specifically human beings would succeed them?

The best hedge for our ecosystem for the future is a diverse gene pool, is diversity itself. So it is, culturally speaking, in society. Diversity is a strength. The never-ending task of government is to nurture that diversity, maximizing its advantages and minimizing the social stresses which inevitably accompany it. I was delighted that the speech from the throne and the budget addressed

this vital matter. We can have a safe and secure, diverse community, as long as most of us most of the time bear in mind the value, indeed the basic importance of that diversity.

If I had to pick out one key difference between the western bloc and the eastern bloc, I would say that it is our recognition of and development of diversity in our society. Behind the Iron Curtain, there is a push towards uniformity, a push against individuality. We recognize that every individual can and should contribute to society. The ultimate minority is the individual. He or she deserves respect and support not only on humanitarian grounds, but also because of the hard business fact that a creative, productive society cannot afford to waste the talents of even a single individual. All forms of stereotyping are not only socially unacceptable, they are inefficient and counterproductive as they stifle individual talent and creativity.

That, of course, is the message of Transitions, which speaks to certain aspects of our social system. That is the message of the principles of health care set out in *A Vision of Health: Health Goals for Ontario*. That, indeed, is the message of the entire speech from the throne and budget that we are discussing here. It is a pleasure for me to speak in support of this budget.

**Mr Pollock:** I can appreciate the fact that they are spending \$10 million on Trent University. I am glad to see those kinds of dollars flowing into that particular area. I have students from my area going to Trent. I would just like to remind the member for Peterborough (Mr Adams), though, that the former government built Trent University and the former government also built Sir Sandford Fleming College of Applied Arts and Technology in Peterborough. So we were not without a hands-on approach in trying to do something for Peterborough and that whole part of eastern Ontario.

I have heard some municipalities in that area, though, claim that as far as transfer payments to their municipalities are concerned, they did not even keep pace with inflation. In fact, one municipality reported to me that they were getting less than what they got a year ago in transfer payments. Nevertheless, I appreciated the remarks of the member for Peterborough and his concerns for that particular area of eastern Ontario.

1600

**Mr Adams:** I am grateful to my colleague and neighbour the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr Pollock) for his remarks. If I could just pick up on one point, though, I would

like it to be known for the record that I did not claim that this government built Trent University or Sir Sandford Fleming College.

If you listened to my remarks, Mr Speaker, and I know that you did, I very carefully stressed the provincial contribution in those various areas. I actually used that phrase: "the provincial contribution" was so-and-so. I did that quite deliberately, because I think of the university, the college, the hospitals and the schools as community institutions. They are not institutions of this government.

If I could use the example of the emergency facility at Civic Hospital, I cited the provincial contribution to that, but of course it is not the entire cost. There was a tremendous fund-raising drive in the community which raised well over \$1 million so that the people could contribute to their emergency department.

It is the same when I stressed the origins of Trent University and Sir Sandford Fleming College. There was a remarkable outpouring of community support and community funds for those institutions, and the community can rightly say that they are its institutions. As the member for Peterborough, it is my privilege to see that our community receives its share of provincial support to help with those community institutions.

Again, I thank my colleague the member for Hastings-Peterborough for his remarks.

**Mr Philip:** I would like to start off my contribution to this debate by quoting from an interesting book that I had an opportunity to read only recently, a book written by Father Bob Ogle. As many members will know, Father Bob Ogle is a Roman Catholic priest who was elected as a federal member of Parliament for the New Democratic Party and recently has been suffering from some illness. None the less, on his sickbed, despite all of his other problems, he wrote a book which I think is sensitive and which all members of the House should read.

On the second page of the book he says:

"Whenever I have to talk about aid, I think of the story"—and he tells the story that people can read, but his conclusion is: "Giving aid is the most difficult, most delicate human act, as far as I am concerned. A person who does not have the money to buy the basic necessities for himself and his family is in an extremely vulnerable position. It is so easy to destroy his dignity. If we are going to give aid to another person or another country, we have to remember that we are stepping into a crucial, sensitive area. If providing aid is the only solution in the short run, it

must be done in the way that preserves self-respect."

He goes on to talk about foreign aid, but also the way in which we deal with people who are particularly vulnerable. The whole theme that one has to get is that the value in dealing with the vulnerable is that we must always give charity in a way that is not paternalistic and that our aim has to be to help someone up to become self-reliant and self-respecting, rather than always obligated to the donor.

One of the things I would like to say is that over the years I think we in the New Democratic Party have stood for that kind of principle that it is better to work than receive handouts, that dignity comes from work, that a majority of people want to work rather than have handouts and that a majority of people who are in an unfortunate situation of requiring assistance do not want to be there and would rather have the kind of assistance that makes them independent.

We have been very supportive of the Thomson report, and I want to say that one of the proudest days was to listen to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney) announce that he had persuaded his cabinet and was making some major advances in that.

On a very positive note in this budget speech, I want to congratulate the Minister of Community and Social Services for the work he has done, but also congratulate the various coalitions, the numerous groups that came to see me, that met with government members as well as opposition members: the church groups, the community groups, the people who were vulnerable themselves and who said that the Thomson report must be implemented.

To the minister and to all those who helped him to persuade his colleagues that we have to move to a more humane treatment of the poor and indeed, in the long run, to a less expensive way of handling poverty by helping people to help themselves, I say congratulations.

I have had an opportunity to participate in a number of budget debates, and in most instances I could predict what the main thrust of the budget would be. Even Larry Grossman's budgets had very few surprises, although he often tried to surprise people by giving leaks that were quite different from what he eventually delivered.

I never would have predicted, however, what I consider a significant thrust in this budget, a departure from all previous budgets that I have experienced and debated, and that is that this Treasurer, a Treasurer of this province, would introduce a budget that would single out by

geography one area of the province for more taxes than others.

Never would I have predicted that this or any other Treasurer would create in the budget a form of discrimination, a form of economic apartheid, which says that my constituents and I, who happen to live in Metropolitan Toronto, the most expensive city in Canada to live in, should have our expenses compounded by being charged more taxes, not because we are wealthier than other individuals, but rather because we happen to live in one part of the province rather than another.

This budget increases car registration fees for Metro area motorists from \$54 to \$90 next year while motorists in the rest of the province will pay substantially less. It imposes a new levy on commercial properties in greater Metro, including parking lots, likely leading to increased costs for our citizens. It has raised the land transfer taxes on higher-priced homes, most of which, of course, are in the Metro area, while providing refunds for the lower-priced homes, most of which are in other parts of the province.

The Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) tries to justify this tax discrimination against Metro residents by stating that he needs to raise money for the residents of Metro to deal with the traffic bottlenecks. It is interesting, though, that in the same breath he admits that he is one of the people creating those travel bottlenecks by driving into Metropolitan Toronto and making use of all of its facilities.

One of my colleagues to the south of me in Etobicoke justified the discrimination in terms of taxes on Metropolitan Toronto and area residents by saying, "After all, we have facilities. Look at the Hospital for Sick Children," as though the Hospital for Sick Children were there only to serve our children and not all of the province. Indeed, we know that it serves people from all parts of the world who come in to that hospital.

A senior citizen said to me last night:

"I can't understand what the Treasurer is doing. You know, he says that somehow it is a privilege to live in Toronto because it's a great city, it's a world-class city, and therefore we should somehow pay more taxes for the privilege of living here. But I don't have the money left over to go and see *Les Misérables*. I don't have the money left over after I've paid my taxes to put my name on the waiting list for *The Phantom of the Opera*. I don't even have the money to go to a good restaurant in Metropolitan Toronto. Why not tax the people who can enjoy these things and who have the funds to enjoy these things? Tax the

people by income, and not by the fact that they happen to live in a particular geographical area.”

No less a person than Metro Chairman Alan Tonks had this to say in the 18 May edition of the *Toronto Star*:

“Metro Chairman Alan Tonks said last night that he doesn’t see much in the budget to help Metro solve its traffic woes—most of the transportation improvements are outside Metro.”

This is the former Liberal candidate, the unsuccessful Liberal candidate in York South who is now Metro chairman, saying that he basically disagrees with the premise of the Treasurer that somehow the people in Metropolitan Toronto have to be taxed because we are going to have all of these extra transportation facilities as a result of this additional taxation. Of course, if one looks at the transportation he intends to implement with this, one sees that most of those items were already in previous budgets, were already planned for, even by previous governments, and, furthermore, that the budget contains almost no new money for the expansion of Toronto transit.

**1610**

Congestion in Metro cannot be overcome, as my colleague the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms Bryden) has pointed out, without providing more inexpensive, efficient, public transportation to make it a truly world-class city. If we look at some of the major cities in the world, we see that it is an effective public transportation system which helps to deal with an overwhelming problem of other-vehicle transportation.

The Treasurer boasted of a \$2-billion program for both roads and transit, but he is mainly recycling the old promises to close a few road transportation gaps. He says \$1.2 billion of the \$2 billion will go to the greater Toronto area. However, there is no new subway construction beyond one station extension in the much underused Spadina subway. No funds are allocated to construction of the Sheppard line, which is urgently needed in the city. Instead, the Toronto Transit Commission riders in Metro could face very much larger fare increases in the next couple of years.

Taxes on fuel and tires, which this budget imposes, and new taxes and new levies on parking lots, will dramatically increase the TTC’s operating costs next year. Who will pay for all of these increased costs? Certainly, the TTC riders will, if we look at this budget. TTC patrons already pay a larger share of transit costs through the fare box than transit riders in other

Ontario cities. Under the current cost-sharing formula, riders pay 68 per cent of the TTC cost. This budget really does not come to grips with that problem.

In the area that I live in and represent, cars are not a luxury; they are essential if you do not have the money to live in downtown Toronto, if you live in the suburbs. Rexdale is a suburb, and as we start developing further and further suburbs some people in Rexdale might argue that it is no longer a suburb, but people who live in our area are basically middle-income people. Many of them are immigrants to Canada and some of them will even have two and three jobs just to pay that mortgage. They use their automobiles to travel to work in Mississauga, Peel, Brampton and Vaughan where there is inadequate public transportation or, indeed, due to the nature of their shift work, because they have to use a car.

This Treasurer decides to impose a gasoline tax increase by one cent a litre on all grades, to 10.3 cents a litre on unleaded and 13.3 cents a litre on leaded gas. Gas tax will increase another one cent a litre across the board next 1 January. Propane fuel will be taxed at 2.3 cents a litre in July, which is not a big thing in my area but in some municipalities it is. Motor vehicle registration fees for annual licence stickers will shoot up to \$90 from \$54 in our area. Driver’s licence fees will go to \$30 from \$21. There will be a \$5 tax on each new tire, starting 1 June. Parking will likely cost us more due to the new levy that I talked about earlier.

The Canadian Automobile Association argues that levies against drivers are really regressive, because if you look at who is hit, lower- and middle-income earners are hit the hardest. They are the ones who have small trucks because they are craftsmen and small business people. They are the ones who must drive to work because they are shift workers. They are the ones who cannot afford to live along the subway lines, where housing is more expensive, but in the suburbs, where many of them have found an opportunity or are forced to live in order to find either rental accommodation or a house they might be able to afford.

The Treasurer boasts that this budget keeps a long-overdue Liberal promise of eliminating Ontario health insurance plan premiums. But instead of paying for this promise through a progressive tax—and I want to deal with a progressive tax later—we see that he is passing on the costs to the home owner, through higher property taxes, and to tenants, through higher property taxes passed on through rent review,

because their landlord will have to ask for higher rents as a result of the property taxes. These property taxes come, to a large extent, from the very way he is paying for the OHIP premiums.

The Etobicoke Board of Education, for example, says that the so-called OHIP premium saving to each of us will cost the local taxpayers \$1.3 million, since they are the ones who will be paying for the money saved by the board employees. Metro council says it will be spending another \$1.4 million to cover this government gift and will be passing that bill along to the local taxpayers. Etobicoke expects to pay another \$200,000, which will be funded through increases in property taxes. That is the only place they can get it. The hospitals, community colleges and universities will also be searching for ways to cover the increased costs passed on to them by the Treasurer, without any kind of subsidy, as a result of eliminating OHIP premiums.

It is the municipal politician, be he or she a member of the school board or the council, who has no further source to go to but the local ratepayer. This government announces proposals that sound good for the government and the local elected representative, be it on the school board or the council, takes the flak.

This is not new with this Liberal government. We have legislation before a committee of this House at the moment that municipalities have all been opposed to. Without any consultation with the municipalities, the government decided that the security of courthouses—I thought justice was a provincial matter—is going to be taken over by the municipalities. In Metropolitan Toronto, that means an extra cost of \$14 million. I have talked to some of the people in Sudbury. It is a lesser amount up there, but proportionately it is a large amount of money from their tax base. Various other municipalities have said similar things. The people of Metropolitan Toronto are going to pay \$14 million for the security of their courthouses to deal with cases of accused criminals from all kinds of municipalities throughout Ontario.

We have a system of gradually passing the buck to the municipalities on those items that are expensive while taking credit for announcing some of the programs. The municipality has to pick up the bill and the municipal councillors take the flak for raising municipal taxes, which is a regressive, not a progressive, form of taxation.

Recently, my colleague the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mrs Grier) and I met with staff of the Etobicoke Board of Education. The staff of the Etobicoke board and the trustees

are—and I can say this as someone whose wife was a one-time member of that board—people who are genuinely interested in the children, in the community and in developing progressive, innovative programs.

## 1620

We only have to look at some of the programs, be they some of the excellent arts programs or other innovative programs, to see that the people have kept up to date on the literature and they have tried their best to have a progressive, dynamic educational system and I think they deserve some credit.

What they expressed concern about is that this government loves to announce new programs without consulting them first and without asking them: "Do you have the space in which to run the programs? Do you have the staff? Who is going to pay for them?" The government tries to get credit for announcing new educational programs, but the local taxpayer ends up paying, through the most regressive form of taxation, property taxes, for these programs. The local school trustees and the local administration of the school board have to find ways of trying to implement these programs.

I think this government could learn a lot, particularly the Premier (Mr Peterson), from a fellow by the name of Gunther Gable Williams. I see the pages attentively paying attention to this speech of mine, and I am sure that if members of the House do not know Gunther Gable Williams, some of the pages will.

Gunther Gable Williams has developed one of the most progressive, innovative styles of leadership of anybody I have experienced in a long time. When you see Gunther Gable Williams in a leadership role, you see consultation. You see leadership, but you also see consultation.

Gunther Gable Williams is one of the most successful, probably the world's greatest, animal trainers and he runs two of the largest circuses in the world. They probably are the largest circuses in the world. He does not have one animal act; he has dozens of animal acts and all kinds of variety in animals.

I think the thing that distinguishes him from the old-time lion tamers and people who banged whips and shouted and screamed and beat animals is that there is a certain amount of communication between the people who are part of his team. He recognizes he does not have a business unless those animals respond to him; unless he consults with them; unless he consults with the other trainers and the other performers. That is probably why he has a successful circus.

He has a successful circus where the animals look happy, where the people look happy and where everybody seems to have a good time. I think that is a style of leadership which the Premier could probably adopt.

When I talk to the Liberal backbenchers, I see the surprise on their faces. I am sure it came as a complete surprise to the Metro members of the Liberal caucus, that great number of members who were elected to this very large majority Liberal government—I look at two of the members from Scarborough at opposite ends of the House nodding their heads—that this government would single out Metro for particularly punitive taxes over the rest of the province. I am sure they were not consulted.

**Miss Nicholas:** Where are your glasses to see that I was nodding?

**Mr Philip:** If they were consulted, then I challenge the member for Scarborough—whatever to stand up when I am finished and say that she was consulted and that she agrees with this punitive taxation on her constituents and on herself.

We see that the Premier and the honchos in his office do not consult with his backbenchers. I know, by talking to them, the great surprise that they had when the Sunday shopping legislation was introduced, for example. They had—

**Miss Nicholas:** I was not nodding. I know what nodding is.

**Mr Philip:** These one-term members like to interject, but they do not like to interject in a way that can be heard. If she wants to interject and cut me off—

**Miss Nicholas:** I was not nodding.

**Mr Philip:** Well, she goes back not to the Gunther Gable Williams style of circus but rather to the old style of circus, the trained seals. She bounces up when the Premier tells her, she sits down when the Premier tells her and she tries to interrupt the opposition members when they score points against the government and tell the truth in this House.

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. One member at a time. The member for Etobicoke-Rexdale has the floor and only the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale. Please continue.

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. You may proceed.

**Mr Philip:** It is interesting how quiet the members opposite are when it comes to getting

on their feet and speaking up for their constituents but how noisy they are when they like to interrupt members of the opposition who are speaking for their constituents.

When this government introduced its Sunday shopping legislation, the Solicitor General (Mrs Smith) stated that it was a method of enforcing the “principle of a common pause day.” Indeed, that was the argument that was made throughout by the Liberal backbenchers, who were told how to vote despite the fact that their constituents told them to vote differently and despite the fact that their conscience told them to vote differently.

Now we see the results. In the bill that was introduced, we see a clause that requires that if a municipality is going to change its law it has to publish a notice of public meetings in the newspaper. Of course, the Liberals tried to say that it would not happen, that they would not be trying to change the law. Well, we have the first notice. York region has advertised that on 22 June it is going to have a public meeting to decide whether or not to expand Sunday shopping.

I had predicted at the time of the Sunday shopping legislation—and I am looking at one of the members of the committee now; he is sitting there nodding his head and I am sure he will agree with me—that York region would probably be one of the first to go and that if Woodbridge opened up, it would be impossible for areas such as my area of Rexdale to stay closed. So we see that York region, sure enough, is the first to start the ball rolling. When do they democratically hold a meeting? At two o'clock on a Thursday afternoon. That is a good time to get the citizens who are concerned about Sunday shopping out: hold a meeting at two o'clock on a Thursday afternoon.

Numerous people have written to the Solicitor General and the Attorney General (Mr Scott) pointing out the constant abuses of the present legislation. There are stores that are remaining open, many of them up in York region, and this Solicitor General refuses to enforce the law. Indeed, she does not even answer their letters.

I want to read just a couple of the letters that were written to the Attorney General. He rarely answers anybody's letter. He does not answer the letters of people in his own riding, as I have pointed out before when I read some of these letters. Let me read members a letter signed by Les Kingdon, who wrote to him:

“Undoubtedly it has been brought to your attention that Loblaws supermarkets at Warden and Highway 7 are open for business on Sunday, April 30, 1989. Loblaws have been one of the staunch supporters of the Retail Business Holi-

days Act. With the continuing violation of the act by Sunkist Farms at 7155 Woodbine Avenue without any action by your department in seeking an injunction, Loblaws cannot afford the loss of business to this violator.

"There is not a level playing field here, for Loblaws' normal hourly rates are two or three times higher than that of Sunkist. Added to this, Loblaws will pay their employees double time for Sunday work. We are completely at a loss to understand what we must do to get your department activated into taking action available to you to close down these continuing violators of the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"The situation, as my many previous letters have indicated, has reached a critical stage. There are many, many violations in addition to those which have been brought to your attention. Where is the improved enforcement procedure promised at all levels by your government?"

It is signed by Les Kingdon, the executive director of the People for Sunday Association of Canada.

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He adds a footnote: "We have been informed in all probability that ACP-Dominion will open up their Unionville store on Sunday, May 7." I have not had a chance to check whether that in fact did happen, but that was his comment.

What we have is a series of letters here, and I would be happy to share them with any member, written both to the Solicitor General and to the Attorney General all the way back from February, pointing out numerous violations and asking what the Solicitor General intends to do as the chief police enforcement officer and what the Attorney General intends to do.

Neither of these has had the courtesy to reply to these people. They have not had the courtesy to even say, "We're going to see what's happening." When you talk to people out there, the police are saying: "We are not receiving any directions from the Solicitor General. We're not receiving any directions that this act is to be strongly enforced. Why should we stick out our necks when we have so many other things to do?"

This government is clearly not showing any leadership. They are breaking their election promises which they broke with the introduction of Sunday shopping legislation, but they are clearly also breaking their promise made at the time they introduced this legislation and argued in favour of it, in which they said this legislation would stop the flagrant abuses of the store hours legislation.

What we are seeing is more abuses and we are seeing a Solicitor General who is not enforcing the present act. I say this just goes to show that not only is this government insensitive in not listening to the public, it is not even doing the job it said it would or keeping the promises it said it would deal with when it introduced its horrible Sunday shopping legislation.

That legislation will come back to haunt them. We will remind them about their broken promises from the last election and we will remind them about their lack of respect for the law and for the laws of this province.

On another topic, not only is this Liberal government—

**Mr Sola:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I thought we were debating the budget. The member has been referring to the Solicitor General and the Attorney General. The last I knew, neither one was wearing the mantle of the Treasurer.

**The Deputy Speaker:** It is all part of the budget. The member may proceed. It is not a point of order.

**Mr Philip:** I am glad you were able to explain the rules to the member, as various chairmen of committees could not seem to get him to understand the rules in committee.

Not only is this Liberal government creating increased problems for injured workers, again, by not consulting and listening to the workers and introducing Bill 162, but it is failing miserably to provide adequate community legal services for those injured workers wishing assistance in fighting for their rights under the present act.

At present, Community Information and Legal Services in Rexdale, with a case load of 330 cases, has been told it will have an increase of funding at less than the rate of inflation. Many of the residents in Rexdale are moving to areas such as Brampton because of the scarcity of affordable housing in our own area and Brampton has no legal aid service whatsoever to service injured workers. Because of the heavy case load of the CID, and in my own case a case load in the vicinity of 300 active workers' compensation cases, neither I nor the Community Information and Legal Services office in Rexdale can accept cases from outside our geographical area.

It remains to be seen whether the small increase announced for new clinics in this budget will actually place a legal aid clinic in Brampton—because there is enough funding for one, if we look at the amount—and find out whether they will service their constituents, who seem to be

coming into our area because they cannot get help in their own area.

The situation is also complicated by cutbacks under the Ontario legal aid plan, resulting in legal aid clinics such as the Kensington-Bellwoods, Parkdale and Kingston legal aid services having to reduce the number of law-student case workers normally hired during the summer in an effort to deal with the backlogs.

What we have is a government that has introduced legislation which the legal aid clinics have opposed, which every advocacy group that has assisted injured workers has opposed, and which is bound to increase the amount of case work for those legal aid services and MPPs, those of us who do handle workers' compensation. At the same time, it is cutting back in providing those legal aid clinics with the resources to handle the cases.

When we look at this budget, there is nothing in the budget to expand day care over the regular three-year program that was previously announced. We have over 4,000 on the waiting list in Metropolitan Toronto, but what we are talking about is 4,000 new subsidized spaces for all of Ontario.

I have a constant number of people coming to my office saying they want to become self-supporting. They need child care services and day care services to get back into the job market or to get the kind of educational training that will enable them to, and they simply are not getting them.

There are 575 children on the waiting list for subsidy in Etobicoke alone, and at this time the province has not indicated any new funds to increase the number of subsidized spaces.

I think there are fairly clearly a number of things that need to be done. If members believe, as the Minister of Community and Social Services has indicated and I believe he believes in, the principle that people should have the dignity of being independent, then we have to increase the funds to cover all children on the waiting list for subsidy in Ontario. We have to increase the amount of direct operating grants to 30 per cent of the operating cost and therefore be able to raise wages and attract people into this profession and reduce the fees, and we have to strictly enforce the Day Nurseries Act to ensure that there is quality care.

There is a recent press release from Norman Gardner, who is not a New Democrat, but is a member of the Metro Toronto council and a member of the executive committee.

**Mr Faubert:** He is a Liberal.

**Mr Philip:** He is a Liberal. Another Liberal attacking the government, in the same way, as I pointed out, that Alan Tonks, the Metro chairman, had attacked this government over this budget. Obviously, Norman Gardner, another Liberal, I am informed by one of the Liberal backbenchers, is also attacking.

I would urge the members to look at what Norman Gardner says about the way in which this government is treating the people who are waiting for adequate day care spaces in this province.

All of us have received—

1640

**Mr D. R. Cooke:** What did he say?

**Mr Philip:** If you want a copy of the letter, I will give it to you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. One member at a time, and the member should address his remarks through the Speaker. The member for Etobicoke-Rexdale may proceed.

**Mr Philip:** All of the members, I am sure, have received letters from the Victorian Order of Nurses of Canada. I have received a letter that reads:

"I am a director of the Metropolitan Toronto branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses of Canada. The purpose of this letter is to alert as many political representatives as possible to the plight of the health care service industry and the VON in particular."

It was summed up very nicely in the Toronto Star on 22 April in an article about the elderly, and I quote: "The reality is that the home care sector is about to go bankrupt from chronic underfunding."

What has this government done? It has topped up the immediate situation, but it is not dealing with the ongoing problem that this organization and indeed all home care services are facing. We are going to be back here next year with another bankruptcy, another impending financial crisis for all of these organizations because this government refuses to deal with the issue that people are better provided for in their own homes but people have to be paid properly to provide service in their own homes.

The member for Scarborough-whenever is shaking his head. Perhaps he should travel to Quebec. I know he has a travel agent's licence. He would probably get a discount if he would go to Quebec to see what they pay home care workers there and see exactly the problem we are

having. I am on the board of directors of a home care and support service—

**Mr Faubert:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The member alluded to a member from Scarborough with a travel agent's licence. There is no member from Scarborough with a travel agent's licence. Perhaps he means the member for Don Mills (Mr Velshi).

**Mr Philip:** The member for Don Mills has a travel agent's licence.

**Mr Velshi:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Just like everything else this member has been talking about, he has mistaken my riding and he has also mistaken the business I am in. I do not have a travel agency business.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr M. C. Ray):** If I may, these are—

**Mr Philip:** I am sure the people who travel to South Africa know what kind of business he is in because they buy tickets from him.

**Mr Velshi:** Mr Speaker—

**The Acting Speaker:** Excuse me, please. Order. I am trying to indicate to the House that these are not points of order. They may be points of valid information, but they are not points of order. The member for Etobicoke-Rexdale has the floor.

**Mr Philip:** If the Liberal group of seals would not interrupt me, I would not address them and would say nice things about them.

I want to deal with the whole theme of this budget. Basically, what we have is a very conservative budget. We have a budget that passes on the main brunt to one group of people, namely, middle-income Ontario citizens. The rich people in this province have been getting richer and richer with less and less tax while the poor and middle-income earners get stuck with more and more. This budget carries on that tradition.

Property tax is the most regressive form of taxation, yet this government in this budget creates an even greater tax burden on the home owner and indirectly on the tenants by increasing property taxes on the owners of apartment buildings.

On the other side, we notice that only two of the 24 countries that belong to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development impose no taxes whatsoever on capital in the form of either an annual net wealth tax or a state tax. Of course, the Treasurer is proud to be part of those two countries.

There is more than \$7 billion worth of untaxed corporate profits in Ontario and in order that the

corporations start to pay their fair share, it is incumbent that the Treasurer follow the lead, I believe, of no more progressive administration than the United States government, and at least have a minimum corporate income tax.

If we had seen some movement in that direction instead of a movement towards putting an increasing burden on middle-income people in this province, one would have said there was an attempt by this Treasurer to move towards some kind of fairness. Instead, what we see is a constant movement by this government to pass more and more of the costs of operating government on to the middle-income earners, while allowing the very rich and the very affluent corporations to get off.

When we look at this budget we have a basically unfair budget. The government had an opportunity to show some leadership. It failed. The municipalities have said that this government has been an abominable failure with this budget and they have expressed themselves openly. Even prominent liberals like Metropolitan Toronto Chairman Tonks have expressed their disappointment with this government. Various other groups that are concerned about fairness and about the need for progressive taxation have expressed their concern to the Treasurer. I say to the Treasurer to carry on; he is helping Mr Wilson in his regressive stand on the part of the rich, while ignoring middle-income earners.

**Mr Faubert:** I just have a couple of quick comments. The member for Etobicoke-Rexdale alluded to an attack on the government regarding day care by Councillor Norm Gardner of the Metropolitan Toronto council, yet he failed to read into the record this letter; even in context he failed to read it. He did not even selectively read the letter.

The letter would show that Mr Gardner is making a reasoned request of the government for increased funding for subsidized day care and to support the day care program of Metropolitan Toronto, as is his responsibility and his right. But no one, I think, except the most biased of people, could interpret that as an attack upon this government and upon its financing of day care in this province.

I have one further comment. He states that the Victorian Order of Nurses has somehow taken on this government. He quoted from a letter. That letter is, I think, about two weeks old. My colleague the member for Scarborough Centre (Miss Nicholas) and I—and I am sure, other members of this House—have read and have

received today in the mail a letter of appreciation from the executive director of the VON, saying the nurses appreciate what the government has done on their behalf, and indeed, they look forward to working out, in a reasonable and amiable manner, other future issues related to funding of the VON and its services.

**Miss Nicholas:** I just wanted to make a few comments on the honourable member's speech. Although not much was directed to the budget, I will concentrate on that part. One thing the member did mention was that there were two members from Scarborough here nodding their heads in agreement when he said that the backbenchers of this Liberal government are not consulted at all, in any way, in any manner whatsoever—words to that effect—and that we were nodding in agreement with him.

I can tell the member that I was not nodding my head. I am nodding it now, but I was not nodding it in agreement with the member's comments at that time. I do not think the member for Don Mills was nodding either, but I am not quite sure about that. He is from Don Mills, and I am sure his constituents would not be happy to hear that they are living in Scarborough and not Don Mills, although we would be happy to include them in our part as well.

1650

The other thing the honourable member was talking about was day care. While I will agree that there are a lot of people who need to be serviced by the subsidized day care spaces, I think this budget goes a long way in helping out those who are on social assistance and have intentions of going back to work or school; providing day care for all those people who cannot obtain subsidized day care and trying to find another way of providing the service for them by paying them directly to go to alternatives other than subsidized day care, and that includes informal and formal day care. I think this is a great step forward. It encourages people to get out to work, to go back to school and to become self-reliant.

I think this is a great budget and I concur with the comments of the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere about the VON letters. I received one as well.

**Mr Sola:** The member for Etobicoke-Rexdale (Mr Philip) raised the issue of the fairness of this budget, and I just want to read a quote from the Toronto Star of 21 May, where it says:

“And even if you aren't”—better off because of this budget, and the writer did conclude that we would be better off as individuals—“there's an

element of fairness in this financial blueprint for the next 12 months that may make the pill easier to swallow.” I would like to point that out.

Then the member raises the question: “Why Metro? Why pick on Metro?” I think he should be listening to some of his own members from the north, who use the same argument: “Why Metro? Why give everything to Metro?” I think if we balance things out, Metro gets more and therefore it pays more.

When we take a look at just the transportation issue, we are getting Highway 403, Highway 410, Highway 427, the Queen Elizabeth Way and Highway 407; a transit link to Pearson International Airport; gateways that speed up commuter traffic, and there are 15 gateways in the greater Toronto area; more GO Transit; an improvement of the Toronto Transit Commission; the Harbourfront light rapid transit line. Anything we look at is pointing at Metro, so that is one of the reasons that Metro is paying more.

**Mrs Marland:** I am not standing to respond, of course, to the last speaker. I am standing to respond to the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale. I think the subject areas that he has addressed are some of those which I will be addressing very shortly when I have the opportunity to speak.

I do find it interesting to listen very carefully to the responses of other people in this House. I guess what is really significant is that obviously some of those responses were made to my colleague the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale without having really heard what he has said.

**The Acting Speaker:** Does the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale wish to reply?

**Mr Philip:** I do, in reverse order. I thank the member for Mississauga South (Mrs Marland). She, of course, is correct and she responded very adequately to the member for Mississauga East (Mr Sola), because he really did not understand what I said. He gave a whole litany of things that are on tap in terms of transportation for this area. In fact, what I said was that those were already on tap even long before this government, let alone this budget. There is absolutely nothing new, and he would have been better off if he had spent his time saying what his constituents are saying, which is “Why tax us more than the rest of the province?” If he had really represented his constituents, that is what he would have been saying.

With regard to the member for Scarborough Centre on the matter of day care, of course she again failed to listen to the matter that I brought up, namely, that there are no new day care spaces under this budget other than what was in the long,

three-year term plan. In fact, if we look at those who are on the list, there are more in Metro than are going to be provided with spaces in all of Ontario this year.

She says that she is one who is consulted, and yet she chairs the standing committee on the Ombudsman and, in any other jurisdiction, the chairman of the Ombudsman's committee and the members of the Legislature are consulted as to whom the Ombudsman will be. She has not been consulted even on that matter, which is so directly of concern to her. One wonders how she could be consulted on any other matter.

The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere talks about the letter from Norm Gardner. Indeed I will be happy to read part of the—

**Mr Faubert:** Read the whole letter.

**Mr Philip:** With unanimous consent, I would be glad to read all of—

**The Acting Speaker:** Order. The time allotted has expired and the next speaker in the budgetary debate is the member for Mississauga South.

**Mrs Marland:** I am happy to rise today, today being 25 May, and take part in this debate on the budget and to comment on the budget of the Treasurer of Ontario which was presented on 17 May, last week.

I am particularly flattered and encouraged that the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) is present in the House at the moment. Also, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr O'Neil) is here and the Minister of Skills Development (Mr Curling). I think it is very impressive for a Thursday afternoon to have three ministers who are forfeiting their Thursday afternoon in order to hear my comments on the budget on behalf of the people of Mississauga South.

I just want to say something at the outset, because I did not say this last year. When the budget was printed last year, it was printed with the same cover as was presented this year. Those members who have accurate colour interpretation will notice that the 1989 Ontario budget has a red trillium on it. The budget of 1988 also had a red trillium on it, and I think when that happened last year, there were a large number of people in this province who asked why. Why, when the official floral emblem for Ontario is the white trillium, was this Liberal government being so partisan as to change the colour of the trillium to match the official colour of its party?

I think what is really significant, of course, apart from the fact that it is sad that we now have red trilliums on an official document of the Ontario government, is that the official floral emblem of Ontario is still the white trillium, and

the fact that this one is red perhaps is an indication of how the people of Ontario feel when they see this budget and understand it. They do see red, I say to the Treasurer.

The budget presented to this House and the people of Ontario last week by the provincial Liberal government, in my opinion, is nothing more than another billion-dollar tax grab designed to add further inflation to our economy and erode the buying power of the public.

The Treasurer spoke of many new taxes: environment taxes and transportation taxes and tire taxes. However, none of these revenues will be directly channelled into spending in those areas the taxes are affiliated with in the budget paper, because we have learned that all of those taxes flow directly into the general revenue fund.

This budget has attacked the pockets of the residents of Ontario, but very specifically targets the already stretched budgets of those living in Metro and the neighbouring areas like the city of Mississauga. This open tax discrimination against the people of the GTA, the greater Toronto area, is going to affect the very economy that is supporting the boom in Ontario today. In fact, the GTA might well be called the greater taxation area.

#### 1700

Rather than encourage growth and development in our economy, this government is tightening its grip on taxpayers and shifting provincial funding responsibilities on to municipal governments, thereby on to the backs of the residential property taxpayers. The municipal governments have no choice. If they do not receive the money that is needed, they have no choice but to go to the property taxpayers for it.

Let me take this House through some of the budgetary priorities being expressed by residents, business, school boards, local governments and community groups in Mississauga alone. A steady decline in provincial funding to our education system, along with a host of unfunded provincial programs, has resulted in an education system in crisis.

Rather than plan in a responsible manner, the Liberal government continues to announce new programs with no intentions of providing the money to pay for them after the initial year of introduction. This is called the carrot method. The government holds out the carrot, it sounds like a wonderful vote-getting new program, the municipalities and the school boards have no choice but to accept the carrot, and then in subsequent years those programs are paid for by the residents through their property taxes.

Class size reduction and sending more children to school sooner and for more hours are two very clear examples. In Peel, we continue to have a growing student population. The Peel Board of Education, with over 160 schools and 90,400 elementary and secondary students, is currently the largest public school board in Canada, and rapidly growing. It is the most rapidly growing school board in the province, and will continue to be, with Mississauga predicting sustained growth for many years to come.

This population explosion has resulted in some very serious problems. Schools are housing more students than they were ever designed to hold and more children are being bused to schools miles away, because the school next door is just too full or has simply not been built. The Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board has undergone sustained growth in enrolment for the past 15 years, with every indication that it will continue until the end of the century.

One of the problems facing both these boards is the declining share of capital funds from the province. The Liberal commitment of 1985 was to restore provincial funding to a level of 60 per cent. Instead, we have seen a continued decline in provincial funding. I think it is very significant to look particularly at the Dufferin-Peel separate school board, because through that board there has to be one of the saddest commentaries about education in our province today.

There are students now in portables in that board today whose parents were in portables. We have children who graduated from the Dufferin-Peel separate school board who never went to school in a regular classroom. All of their school years they were in portables, and now indeed their children are in the same school system and they too are in portables. You have to wonder whether that is equality of education.

While I am talking about the Dufferin-Peel separate school board, I want to give members an example of one school in my riding. It happens to be a school that I was invited to visit this morning.

When we talk about this budget and the effect this budget has on the school populations in Peel, I think it is significant to mention that the Liberal members of this House who are responsible to the Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board and the Peel Board of Education, as I am, have met with both those boards, their trustees and staff, and have been pleaded with to persuade the Treasurer and the Minister of Education (Mr Ward) to fund their boards so that the incredible

accommodation problems can be alleviated somewhat.

Having been at those meetings with the Peel Board of Education, its staff and trustees, and with the Dufferin-Peel separate school board, its staff and trustees, together with the member for Mississauga East, the member for Mississauga West (Mr Mahoney) and the member for Mississauga North (Mr Offer), and having heard the discussion, members can appreciate how disappointed I was last week to see those same members in this House applauding this budget. I do not know how those members on the one hand can listen to the concerns of the people they represent in terms of school accommodation in the city of Mississauga alone and then come into this House and applaud this budget. However, that is the case.

I want to talk for a moment about St James school in Mississauga South. I want to outline the kind of situation that school endures day in and day out. First of all, members should understand that it is a junior-kindergarten-to-grade-8 school. It does not have a gymnasium. It does have two portables joined together, which of course have low roofs; they do not have a high ceiling. This gives a double-sized space, as two portables joined together would. However, it does not give a provision for physical education in the proper form.

What happens with the St James school students is that once a week they get bused out of their school to go for phys ed. In the summer they can play baseball outside and perhaps have some other activities outside, but in the winter there is nothing those students can do in the form of physical activity within the school because there is simply no space whatsoever. Once it gets wet, muddy, snowy and messy outside and they cannot play baseball or have other activities, they have nowhere to go for their physical activities because they simply do not have a regular auditorium or gymnasium.

I would like to tell members about the speech therapist who comes to that school. When the speech therapist is at that school trying to give equality of opportunity and education for the children who need her services, where does she have her classes with her special children and special needs? In the hallway. Is that not great? A speech therapist, where the sound and listening and repetition are so critical, is working in the hallway of an elementary school.

Members might like to hear about the English-as-a-second-language teacher who comes to that school. She works in the principal's office. Is

that not great? I do not know where the principal goes. He is bumped out of his office. I sat in his office this morning, as a matter of fact, and it is very small. But is it not great that the ESL teacher has nowhere else but the principal's office to give that special instruction to those students who need it?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Is this in the Mississauga board?

**Mrs Marland:** In answer to the Treasurer's question, it is in the Dufferin-Peel separate school board, which is the Roman Catholic board for Mississauga. I think what is significant, in response to his question, is that the capital improvements that are needed for this school are \$1.1 million. They actually were the ninth priority of the school board in its submissions to the Ministry of Education, and the Minister of Education arbitrarily chose to fund the 15th priority and not to fund this ninth priority.

Somebody would have to explain to me how the Minister of Education and his staff know more about the priorities than a local school board. Why ask local school boards to prioritize their needs when they make their budget requests if they are going to ignore them? They might as well go out and just play a game of pin the tail on the donkey and throw the drawing pins at the blackboard.

1710

**Mr Mahoney:** Four times the money you guys put into it.

**Mrs Marland:** The interruptions that I am now receiving from the member for Mississauga West are also significant because he obviously thinks this kind of accommodation is okay. I would like to see him have his students in this kind of accommodation.

**Mr Epp:** Margaret, don't mislead.

**Mrs Marland:** I am always flattered by the number of interjections I get when I speak because obviously, I say again, the points that I make must hit home. It is interesting and significant that earlier this afternoon when the member for Peterborough (Mr Adams) was speaking in this House, I had some difficulty with some of the things that he said, but I showed him the courtesy of not interjecting during his speech. I really wish the Liberals members would extend the same courtesy to me. They will have their two minutes of rebuttal, if they wish to wait that long.

In any case, I think it is absurd for the Minister of Education to ask a school board to give its priorities in terms of its requests for funding and

then to arbitrarily pick a 15th item in the list of priorities ahead of the ninth. The ninth is St James school and it is not funded.

I want to continue to describe St James school for the members. When the psychologist comes into that school to help the children who need that kind of counselling and service, there is nowhere for the psychologist to meet with those students except in this double portable, which is supposedly called their gymnasium. Now you have this great huge room with a low ceiling; no desks, no chairs, nothing in it. That is where the psychologist interviews the young students who obviously have problems. What a wonderful, conducive atmosphere for those students. I mean that in the most sarcastic way that I can say it.

Perhaps members would like to know about the French teacher at this school. The French teacher at St James school teaches where? Just guess where; I will tell the members—in the staff room. The French teacher keeps half of her materials in her car; there is no storage in this school for that French teacher's materials. Every time she comes in to take her class, she carries boxloads of material into the staff room which is her classroom for those children who are learning French. Then when she is finished, she carts them back out again to her car.

In the meantime, when this French teacher is using the staff room for teaching French, where do you think the staff are? The staff have nowhere else to go if the staff happen to be on a planning period. Those members who have had anything to do with education know very well that planning time is negotiated into the contract in order that teachers can plan and prepare for classes. But not at St James school; there is nowhere for the teachers to go to prepare.

This morning as I came out of the staff room with the French teacher, I may add, who had just held her class in there, I met the grade 8 religion class going into the staff room. So here we have a grade 8 class being taught their religion in the staff room because there is no other space in the school. Obviously there is no space for the staff to eat and, as I said a few moments ago, there is no space for their planning time.

This school must be marginal in its overall function in terms of the safety of the children in that school. There are cupboards in the hallways. I am quite confident that the Mississauga Fire Department has approved them. However, members should know that there are cupboards in the hallways because there is no storage anywhere else for cupboards. There is no health room for the nurse. When a child is sick, there is no room,

no space anywhere in that school for a child who is ill to go and lie down or have the local nurse see him or her.

Let's talk about something that is important to every school, the school musical. Members must be concerned to know, as I was, that the only place that this school could hold its school musical was in a local church hall. Of course, the local church hall was not close enough for them to walk to, so the children had to be bused to the local church hall for their rehearsals and, of course, the cost of busing had to be borne by the local school.

So, what happened? The school musical had one rehearsal in the church and then gave the performance in the church hall. Do members really think that is fair to the student body of St James Elementary School, of the Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board, that they do not have any of these facilities which are standard in schools around this province?

I have to tell members that when I walked around that school and I visited all the portable classrooms this morning and saw the overcrowding and the total lack of accommodation, as I have just outlined, I really felt that I was in northern Ontario, at some temporary settlement perhaps, where a temporary school might be put up for the summer months. I really felt that we would not expect to see school accommodation such as that in a densely populated southern Ontario location.

The greater irony of all, I feel, on this subject of St James Elementary School, is the fact that the parents live in the GTA, the new little catchphrase of this budget. They live in the greater Toronto area, or as I call it, the greater taxation area. The parents whose children have that inferior accommodation are now the parents who live in the communities around Toronto which have all the added tax burdens.

I am going to invite the Minister of Education to visit this school. I am going to ask him to walk through that school with me and see the programs that take place in the staff room, and nowhere for the staff to go, and all the other items that I have outlined for the minister. I am going to ask him, as Minister of Education, if he thinks this is equality of education in 1989 in this prosperous province.

I know that the parents of St James Elementary School are going to be very interested, first, to see if the Minister of Education has the courage to go and visit their school, and second, when he sees it, if he believes it is acceptable in Ontario in 1989 for these students to have that kind of total

lack of accommodation compared to other school populations.

The education policy of the Liberal government has sparked outcries from trustees, teachers, parents and students. Let me read to members a recent letter from a teacher to the Minister of Education. The teacher's name is M. Biasutti, a grade 1 teacher at St Brigid Elementary School, 81 Torrance Woods, Brampton.

"Dear Honourable Chris Ward:

"I am writing on behalf of all teachers concerning overcrowding and a lack of proper accommodation in St Brigid school. The present situation influences the quality of education by affecting staff morale and school spirit. During the past two years, the school has experienced the many effects of being crowded. Having had my classroom placed in the gymnasium, the library loft, a regular classroom and in a portable, I can describe the impact on students and staff.

"In a portable classroom, students must deal with fluctuating temperatures, dusty and extremely dry conditions, lack of accessibility to water and washrooms and receive inadequate area for storage of coats and lunches. Due to the obstruction of vision between the portable area, more staff members are required for supervision, the space in the schoolyard is reduced and the number of injuries has increased dramatically.

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"The washroom facilities were designed for approximately 350 students. With this limited access, hallways are constantly noisy and washrooms are overused. We are unable to accommodate all our gym classes, and the number of extracurricular activities is reduced. The library focus of Partners in Action cannot be successfully implemented because of the large number of students using the material. The availability of computers and many other resources are restricted due to the large demand.

"The Ministry of Education assigned the board with the responsibility of organizing space and facilities and providing the resources that allow scope for imaginative and varied activities. Mr Ward, where is the ministry's support?"

That letter is from a very frustrated teacher who is simply saying, "If you are going to mandate programs, will you please give us the resources to fulfil them?"

I also have a letter from a grade 3 student of St Rose of Lima school. Her name is Denise Dorges. It is handwritten, as a grade 3 student would write her letter:

"Dear Mr Ward:

"In the summer, it is very hot. We don't have any air conditioner. We don't have any pencil sharpener. We have a small classroom. We have to run to the washroom when it's raining and cold and snowy. In the winter, it is very cold in the portable. We have two doors, and when we move our desks and chairs, it makes a lot of noise. We have no rug. The door slams when it is very windy. We have no shelves. We have steps that get slippery. We get hurt when the door slams on the porch. It's very messy for our coats. It takes a long time to get to the school, but not that long. Everyone else is inside, and we have no sinks.

"Sincerely, Denise."

When a grade 3 student is writing because of her school accommodation, one would have hoped that this Liberal government would have listened.

I am not saying that Queen's Park is a money tree. All I am saying is if we only have so much money, then why do we not spend it on our existing programs? If the Treasurer had not announced the new programs, I would not be standing here making these criticisms. I am simply saying that if he has money to reduce class sizes around this province in grades 1 and 2, if he has money to add junior kindergarten and mandate all-day kindergarten, then why does he not first ask the school boards whether they want to use the money for those programs, or even ask the parents?

It is amazing how many parents do not support the direction of the Liberal government in terms of education today. He should ask the parents whose children have been in portables all through their education whether they think the money he is spending on these new education initiatives should be a priority ahead of the kind of accommodation and conditions I have outlined at St James school.

These are just two of hundreds of letters I have received from pupils, students, teachers, parents and the boards of education making the point that the province's capital funding does not nearly meet the needs of the school boards.

The Peel Board of Education was granted \$70 million in capital allocation approvals over the next three years to construct new schools in the region of Peel. The board had requested \$67 million for new school construction in 1989, \$82.3 million in 1990 and \$101 million in 1991.

The Peel Board of Education had also called upon the Liberal government to work with the board to revise the capital grant plan to ensure that approved costs more accurately reflect the real and constantly increasing costs of construc-

tion. Their report to the ministry, as the member for Mississauga East (Mr Sola) and the member for Mississauga West know full well, said that classroom loading factors should also be revised to reflect the impact of current class sizes on the true cost of school construction.

On the subject of portables, I would just like to say that those students who have never received their education in anything but a portable classroom think it is a disgrace. We have well over 100,000 students in thousands of portables this year in this province. On top of all these problems, we cannot find enough teachers to teach in our schools, primarily because of the lack of funding for teacher education spaces in our teachers' colleges.

Some major budgetary and physical planning has to be completed soon—unless this Liberal government is satisfied with seeing our education system erode.

When I look at the Peel Board of Education in terms of its operating grants—and we always get into this argument about capital grants versus operating grants—just before I leave the subject of education I think we should put into the record that the Peel Board of Education's operating funding, and that means the money the Peel Board of Education received from the province, in 1988 was \$100 million. In 1989 it was \$90 million, a reduction of \$10 million in the fastest-growing school board and the largest public school board in Canada.

That means that now the Peel Board of Education pays 81 per cent for the cost of education in Peel. Out of every dollar spent on education in the region of Peel today, 81 cents is raised at the local level and the province pays 18.9 per cent.

When you look at the capital funding for the Peel Board of Education, in 1989 it requested \$70 million over three years. Correction: In 1989 the Peel Board of Education received \$70.7 million over three years. They had requested \$2 billion over five years.

At the moment, the Peel Board of Education has 558 portables and will add 30 more in this coming year. They have approximately 16,000 students in portables, and that is an estimate of 27 children per portable.

Just for the Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board alone, this year, in 1989, it received \$87.9 million over three years. They had requested \$395 million over five years. The Dufferin-Peel board has 25,205 students in temporary accommodation and what is really significant with the Dufferin-Peel Roman Catho-

lic Separate School Board is that over half its students—half its students—are in portable accommodation.

If we think that is fair in our so-called greater taxation area, then we have to come up with some kind of explanation by this Liberal government about why these school boards' requests are not being met, at the same time that the government keeps adding on a greater financial burden to those school boards by introducing additional programs.

Take reduction in class size, for example. They reduced the class size in grades 1 and 2 and right away the impact on the Peel Board of Education was 140 classrooms. They needed 140 classrooms and 140 teachers at a time when they do not have enough classrooms for their existing student body. What kind of formula and what kind of philosophy that is, God only knows. It just does not make sense, it is totally irresponsible and it is totally unfair to those students and their parents.

I would like to speak for a moment on health. It is very difficult to talk about the issue of health in the province today without pleading to this Liberal government to decide once and for all that it is going to prioritize its spending in terms of human need.

I am not going to repeat what I have said before in this House over the past six months by giving examples such as Charles Coleman, the heart patient who waited nine months for surgery and then died as a result of a heart attack on the operating room table, or, as another example, a three-month-old little girl in my riding, Jessica Godman, who waited for her third open-heart operation. These people are only names to the people in this Legislature, but to their families they are their loved ones.

**1730**

As I have said before, if the people in this Legislature are not affected by what is going on in the health care system in Ontario today, they are fortunate. I sincerely hope they will not be affected, that they will not be placed in the position Mrs Coleman is in today, with a husband who died unnecessarily. Because he was a good candidate for surgery was the only reason the doctors recommended he have heart surgery, but it came too late.

The agony of parents, not only Jessica Godman's parents, but all parents who have children on waiting lists—and the number of times we have heard the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan) in this House say: "Those are medical decisions. They're not political decisions. It's up

to the doctors." The fact of the matter is that when those people, those little three-month-old babies or adults of any age get on a waiting list, the medical decision has already been made. The medical decision made by the physicians and specialists is that they need the surgery. The political decision and the political will of this Liberal government are not to flow through the money that eliminates those waiting lists.

I can hardly believe that there can be any pride in any government which says: "We have three kinds of waiting lists. We have urgent, emergent and the regular waiting lists. We talk about whether it is an emergency or is it just urgent or is it just that they need to have it done?" How can the government be proud of having waiting lists for babies for life-sustaining surgery?

All I am saying is let's eliminate the waiting lists and give the facilities and the money that are needed, so that we do not have waiting lists for life-sustaining surgery. Furthermore, there is the irony that we will pay for patients to go out of this province for that surgery if we cannot do it in Ontario. What kind of financial logic is that?

Some people will be fooled by the Liberal government's decision to rid the province of OHIP premiums paid by individuals. The Premier (Mr Peterson) has tried to make it sound like a free ride for consumers of the system. Let us not kid ourselves. The new scheme which will introduce an employer health levy on 1 January 1990 will not even be dedicated to the Health ministry. We have no guarantee that the money netted from such plans will ever see its way to providing better health care. We know that money will, in effect, be at least \$400 million.

Let us not kid ourselves about the bottom line. The government took in \$1.8 billion from OHIP premiums last year. This new employer health levy scheme is expected to raise \$2.1 billion. The other reality is that passing the buck to business to foot the bill for health care is just an indirect way of taking it from the pockets of you and me. In the end, we pay for these schemes and we also pay for the added bureaucratic costs to business and government for collecting the money this way.

Glen Hunter of the department store Marks and Spencer wrote to me to tell me: "The budget has not only immediate effect, but long-term inflationary ramifications. Our company alone will incur \$500,000 just in payroll tax alone." When a company incurs those kinds of costs, you know the consumers and the employees are going to pay in the end. I want to tell the members that I have just learned that the Peel Board of

Education bill for this employee health levy is over \$3 million this year. Of course, it is a figure they have not budgeted for. They did not know it was coming.

Let me deal for a moment with something I touched upon earlier, that being the continued strain this Liberal government is placing on the municipal tax basis of the province. In addition to the fact that unconditional grants to municipalities have been frozen at the 1988 levels, we have a Ministry of Transportation which wants to spend \$19.5 million on a traffic management system, including a radio station and electronic signs along the Queen Elizabeth Way, while major road work throughout the city remains to be done. Ask the city if it would rather have its major roadwork done or would we rather have this traffic management system?

I still have to hear from the Minister of Transportation (Mr Fulton) about that system. I read about it in the Mississauga News. They did not even have the courtesy to let me know about a system that is going to be introduced, at a cost of \$19.5 million, in my riding. Oh no, they just go to the council and ask if it wants it. The council told them what it thought of it. They do not want it. They would rather have the \$19 million for their road subsidy that they need very badly in the city of Mississauga and the region of Peel.

I travel the Queen Elizabeth Way almost every day and I do not need a radio to tell me that the traffic is a mess. Rush hour is now about 18 hours of the day. There are only a couple of optional routes in and out of Toronto and they are a mess as well.

The provincial road subsidy has also become a serious concern. The province is supposed to contribute 50 per cent of the cost of roadwork in the region of Peel. However, in reality, the province is only contributing 12 per cent towards the actual needs of the region, because if the work has to be done and the province will not finance it, the region has to absorb 100 per cent of the cost, and that means the taxpayers of Mississauga.

The region of Peel also spends about \$5 million on sewage and \$5 million on water. While the province is contributing a little over \$1 million towards these expenses, it is not near the one-third share that the government promised to dedicate at the time of my private member's bill, which was supported in this House, for rusty water line replacement in Lakeview, as an example for infrastructure replacement around the province.

Finally, the waste management crisis in Peel: The region estimated the cost of a new dump site to run about \$500 million in 1988; 10 years ago the same dump site would have cost \$20 million. With the province sending the region back to the drawing board after spending millions to develop a new site in Peel, we can only speculate more inflated costs down the road.

Municipalities get a bad rap again when we realize they will still be responsible for implementing provincially initiated programs like the employer health levy with no additional financial assistance from the province.

As an example is the fact that this budget has no funding to help with the provision of court security, which is another new Liberal government program. I always thought the provincial courts were a responsibility of the province. Now they have decided they are going to put the responsibility of keeping those courts safe at the feet of the local taxpayers.

There is nothing to assist with meeting the stricter standards for soil waste landfills, there is nothing to implement pay equity, and the list goes on.

Then we have the plight of an organization like the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. The authority's general manager, Vicky Barron, says:

"The trend of the province to pass costs down to the local level of government continues to be reflected in the budget, as a diminishing share of our revenue is coming from provincial transfer payments. This lack of provincial funding requires the municipality to absorb a majority of the increases in the operation of the conservation authority."

Then we got the final blow, the lot levy scheme to fund our education system. True, some of the school boards like the idea, but let's hear what others are saying about it.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario is opposed to lot levies for educational purposes. The Ontario Home Builders' Association is against the idea. Joining them are the Urban Development Institute and the Fair Rental Policy Organization of Ontario.

The person who should be opposed is the Minister of Housing (Ms Hošek). In fact, the Minister of Housing should be outraged because of the impact this has on the affordability of housing. Here the left hand tries to make housing more affordable and now the right hand slaps an additional \$5,000 on to the price of a new home for the new home buyer. There is an obvious lack

of communication between the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) and the Housing minister on this one.

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One of my residents also suggested that, since we are now going to single out taxpayers in the greater Toronto area, GTA, possibly land transfer tax refunds on homes under \$150,000 should be amended to include homes in the GTA selling at \$250,000 or less. As the Treasurer is still here in the Legislature, I hope he may consider that adjustment in that figure for the GTA home cost.

As our communities grow, there is in turn a growing demand for social services, services such as Interim Place in Mississauga, which provides shelter for abused women and their children; Community Living Mississauga, which runs a wide range of programs for both the mentally and physically disabled; Our Place (Peel), a nonprofit social service agency, and the children's aid society, to name a few.

All of these organizations are having greater stress put upon them as less assistance is available and, in turn, waiting lists for their services grow. I know too that the members for Mississauga have been approached by the Children's Aid Society of the Region of Peel about the shortage of foster parents. There will continue to be a shortage of foster parents and foster homes while the remuneration they receive is so inadequate.

We have parents on the verge of breakdown, because they are unable to care for their mentally handicapped child alone. We have women who are encouraged by provincial advertising dollars to report abusive incidents but have nowhere to go because of a lack of space. We have homeless youths in need of crisis counselling and shelter, but they have nowhere to turn to.

We have the Red Cross homemakers and the Victorian Order of Nurses providing help to those who would otherwise have to be hospitalized or institutionalized. Their crisis has been temporarily dealt with, but what about the future? This Liberal government took the Red Cross to the wall, to the midnight hour last year, at the point it was going to be forced to cancel that homemaker service. With all the heavy persuasion of the lobbying by the people of Ontario, and indeed by the two opposition parties, the Liberal government finally came through with the funding, but that is no way for the Red Cross to be able to fund their programs.

Without those programs, the health care bill would escalate drastically, because instead of people who are frail and elderly, disabled or ill being able to stay in their home with the support

from the groups such as Red Cross homemakers or the Victorian Order of Nurses, those people would immediately be in an institution or a hospital at \$500-plus a day.

It is irresponsible for the Liberal government to ignore the needs of those agencies which are nonprofit providing those services. The truth of the matter is that the philosophy is to have earlier discharge from hospitals, and you cannot discharge patients earlier unless you have that professional help available to them at their home in the community.

Let me turn just for a moment to the issue of our environment. The Ministry of the Environment has done a commendable public relations job in the last year: lots of flashy announcements, the minister in a trench coat stopping trucks at the border for the television cameras. These are all part of a great campaign designed to give a perception of accomplishment, but the real test comes when we assess the quality of the environment today.

The minister has boasted about recycling and the blue box program. While it is true that we recycle more today than last year, it is also true that we produce more garbage than last year. Is our recycling ability moving more quickly than our production of garbage? Of course not.

Last summer, during some of the worst smog that the city of Toronto, the city of Mississauga and the town of Oakville had ever experienced, the Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley) went on the airwaves and promised that he would take drastic measures if this kind of pollution were persistent. What measures are in place for this summer? The city of Toronto has already recorded unacceptable levels of pollution, and the green-brown haze that circles us here is visible proof of the work that needs to be done.

Last year our beaches were closed again. Again, the minister made a lot of promises about cleaning up our beaches. Will our beaches be closed again this year?

The problems are real and we recognize them as waste, acid gas emission, water pollution and tainted fuel problems. Let us not wait until the media break a story or the air becomes impossible to breathe before we do something. Why wait until the beaches are closed and then make hollow promises?

I do not see much of a vision from this Liberal government; I do not see a positive future for our children in the schools of tomorrow; I do not see a society that will benefit from the many advances in health care and medical research that some Canadian doctors and scientists have been part

of. There are no opportunities for patients to benefit from those advances while they are dying on waiting lists. I do not see an effective solution to our housing crisis.

The solution for providing a better Ontario is not found on paper or on a television clip. No, it should be found in the action of the government and the public. What Ontario wants is action. What Ontario needs is a progressive government that is not afraid to implement the ideals of the people it represents, a government that is not afraid to act and that has human priorities above all others.

It is on that final note of human priorities that I plead to the Premier and the Liberal government to look very closely at the kind of spending initiatives they are making. It has doubled taxation in the last four years. It has increased the civil service by almost nine per cent. The taxation increase of 101 per cent has come, while in the same period our economic growth has been 56 per cent. How can we go on increasing taxation in the good times and not be prepared with that money and prioritize in terms of human need?

I plead to this government to decide that it cannot please everyone. It cannot have these vote-getting schemes, such as new programs in education, while it does not fund existing programs in education or the life-sustaining programs that are needed in health today. The public will support this government if it stands up and says, "We can't afford to do everything, but we will prioritize in terms of human need."

I simply ask, on behalf of the people in Mississauga South and the members of our Progressive Conservative caucus, that this government once and for all start to listen to what the people of Ontario are asking for, and not arbitrarily make announcements and design new programs without consultation with those people who have to implement those programs, and I give as examples the school boards of this province.

1750

**Mr Mahoney:** I hope the member for Mississauga South noticed that I managed to restrain myself from making interjections, because she quite appropriately pointed out that we should give her the respect and the opportunity to put a viewpoint across. But I must admit that I have such difficulty in restraining myself, because I find the viewpoint so unfavourably biased and misinformed. I particularly take strong exception to the comments with regard to capital funding for schools.

Clearly, no matter how much money it seems we pour into the capital side of education, we are not going to solve the problem. When we have increases in requests from the school boards across the province going from \$1.6 billion last year up to \$6 billion this year, virtually overnight going to that level of funding, we have to ask ourselves, "How in the world did this happen?"

I do not know how many times we have to remind the honourable members opposite that the reason we are in this mess is because of the decade, literally, of neglect, prior to the election in 1985 of this Liberal government, by the past Conservative government. They totally ignored the pleas of the growing communities like Mississauga which were constantly coming to the ministers of education and asking them for more money. In the last year of the Conservative Party's stint in office at Queen's Park, these communities received \$72 million across the entire province. We got more than that in our region alone in only one board last year.

I just have such difficulty in listening to the nonsense that tries to pin the blame for underfunding on this Liberal government when in fact we have committed over \$1.2 billion to try to rectify the problems of neglect of past governments.

**Mr Wildman:** I want to say first that I always enjoy listening to my friend the member for Mississauga South in her comments. I must say that I often do not agree completely with what she has to say, but I do enjoy her approach to representing her constituents.

I do take exception to one comment that she made. I know she perhaps did not mean it the way it sounded. That was when she was saying that the capital construction needs of the Roman Catholic separate school board in her area were such that the schools were without facilities and that they might appear to be in some small, temporary settlement in northern Ontario rather than a large, urban centre in southern Ontario.

While I certainly agree that there is a tremendous need and demand for capital construction for education across the province, and particularly in the high growth rate of this area, I am sure that we in the north believe and demand that we receive the same kind of services and the same kind of facilities that people in urban southern Ontario receive, because we believe that the wealth of this area is largely dependent upon the development of the resources of the north.

Frankly, it is our view that if this government were to take the actions needed in terms of planning, then it would perhaps limit the growth

in the so-called greater Toronto area and direct planning into parts of northern and eastern Ontario. Then we might not have all of the problems that we find we are having now because of the tremendous growth in this area.

**Mr Pollock:** I just wanted to compliment the member for Mississauga South on her remarks. It showed that she is deep.

**Mr D. R. Cooke:** You were not here for it.

**Mr Pollock:** I was too here for it. Sorry to just interject like that, but I would like to point out to the member who is interjecting that I was here.

I listened to the member for Mississauga South's remarks and I am sure she is deeply concerned about those students who are in portables. I hope the Minister of Education will work with that particular school board and try to alleviate that particular situation.

I certainly agree with the member's comments in regard to the payroll tax. It is going to be a real burden to small businessmen. I find it a little surprising that professional people like lawyers will not have to pay towards their health care and yet the average working man will have to pick up part of that bill. That is a real concern to me. This payroll tax is a real burden on the small businessman, and in the long run I am sure it is going to cost jobs.

**Mr Sola:** I would also like to focus in on school capital funding. In the first year of Liberal government, \$150 million, or double the amount the last Progressive Conservative government spent, was allocated to capital funding; in the second year of Liberal government, \$225 million, or triple PC spending; in the third year, \$300 million, or quadruple PC spending, and in the fourth year, \$300 million, again quadruple.

In the region of Peel alone, in 1988, \$96 million was allocated to school capital, and in 1989, it was over \$150 million for school capital, as compared to \$72 million under the PCs.

Regarding second-generation portables, which is a repetition from the throne speech remarks, if we are talking about rabbits, then this government is to blame. However, if we are talking about children, then the member for Mississauga South should look in the mirror and say "Mea culpa," because it takes more than four years to create two generations of portables.

Also, I am surprised at her new-found concern for school funding. All one has to do is refer to her throne speech remarks: "I have often said that any member of this Legislature could stand on any public platform in Ontario and defend not spending money on anything except health."

Turning to health, I would like to take a quote from the Mississauga News of Friday, 12 May, regarding three-month-old Jessica Godman. She says, "They were hoping she was now strong enough to undergo her third open-heart operation since her birth January 20, but doctors told the Godmans Jessica still is not strong enough for it."

**The Deputy Speaker:** There is no more time. Does the member wish to respond?

**Mrs Marland:** I do not choose to respond to the comments of the member for Mississauga East, because his comments are not accurate. I am not about to waste my time responding to them, simply to say that it will be very interesting for me to send his comments to the Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board and the Peel Board of Education, because when he stands up and quotes those figures, obviously, he is happy with them. If he is happy with them and he is ignoring the requests of the people who elected him, that is his choice.

I do want to comment, however, on the comments of the member for Mississauga West. I knew that he would certainly get up and puff himself up with all his indignation and talk about the fact that the reason there is a problem today in funding for the two school boards in my region—

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mrs Marland:** The member for Mississauga West keeps sending it back to the fact of the previous government. I want to say that in the last four years, the natural increase in revenue through a 56 per cent growth in the economic strength of this province alone would have carried additional funding to these boards.

The whole point that is missed totally here, of course, is that it is not solving the problem while the government keeps adding additional programs to the school system, which means schools have to have additional space, accommodation and teachers.

Most of all, while the Mississauga West representative is so indignant about the school funding, I wonder how he feels as the small business advocate who sat in this chamber and applauded all the business taxes that went on in this budget last week. As the small business advocate, I would have thought that he would have held his head with shame and concern that his Liberal government was penalizing small business in this province to the extent that this budget does.

**Mr Sola:** Mr Speaker, on a point of privilege: The honourable member said that my remarks

were not accurate. I took her quote from page L-44 of Instant Hansard the day that she made the remarks.

**The Deputy Speaker:** That is a point of information.

**Mr Sola:** The other quote was from the Mississauga News of Friday, 12 May 1989.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. That is not a point of order.

On motion by Mr Faubert, the debate was adjourned.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Hon Mr Conway:** Pursuant to standing order 13, I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

On Monday, 29 May, we will consider second reading of Bill 10, An Act to control Automobile Insurance Rates.

On Tuesday, 30 May, we will deal with interim supply and, concluding that, second reading of Bill 5, the Education Amendment Act, concerning heritage languages.

On Wednesday, 31 May, we will continue with second reading of the insurance bill.

On Thursday, 1 June, we will consider private members' business standing in the names of the member for Halton Centre (Mrs Sullivan) and the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel). In the afternoon, we will continue with budget responses.

#### LEGISLATIVE PAGES

**Hon Mr Conway:** I am sure all members would want me, as is becoming a custom, to observe that tomorrow this group of pages will leave us after a very stellar service over the last four or five weeks. On your behalf, Mr Speaker, and on behalf of the members of the assembly, I want to thank all of those wonderful young men and women most sincerely for their wonderful camaraderie and service over the weeks they have been here. Since their summer recess is likely to be longer than ours, certainly they might want to come on holiday and join us. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

The House adjourned at 1801.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

## CONVICTIONS FOR OFFENCES

**14. Mr Jackson:** Would the Attorney General provide the total number of convictions (for both provincial and federal offences) registered in Ontario for each of the years 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988? [Originally tabled 27 February 1989. Tabled 26 April 1989]

**Hon Mr Scott:** The answer is as follows:

	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88*
Criminal Code of Canada	166,782	141,661	137,889	139,910
Narcotic Control Act/ Food and Drug Act	10,985	9,543	9,380	9,667
Other federal statutes	53,976	52,548	43,433	45,510
Highway Traffic Act	1,243,888	1,173,017	1,433,869	1,442,236
Liquor Licence Act	128,1611	13,707	124,576	128,031
Other provincial statutes	86,463	77,307	84,923	82,943

\*Two months of data for Hamilton-Wentworth and one month of data for Waterloo are missing

## CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION

**15. Mr Jackson:** Would the Attorney General state whether he supports the enactment of an Ontario statute similar in purpose and intent to section 13 of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act of South Australia? [Originally tabled 27 February 1989. Tabled 26 April 1989]

**Hon Mr Scott:** The government is making the necessary arrangements to implement Bill C-89, which amends the Criminal Code to create fine surcharges to pay for services to victims. The issue of a victim fine surcharge for provincial offences is currently under review by the government.

**16. Mr Jackson:** Would the Attorney General state whether in his opinion the imposition of a tax or levy similar in purpose and intent to that provided for by section 13 of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act of South Australia is intra vires of the province of Ontario? [Originally tabled 27 February 1989. Tabled 26 April 1989]

**Hon Mr Scott:** Surcharges for victim services in relation to provincial offences would be intra vires the province.

**17. Mr Jackson:** Would the Attorney General provide copies of all letters, memoranda, documents and studies within his possession which consider or discuss the imposition of a tax or levy similar in purpose and intent to that provided for by section 13 of the Criminal Injuries Compensation

Provincial Court (Criminal Division)  
Province of Ontario

## Number of Charges Convicted

(Includes plead guilty and found guilty, found guilty (no plea or not guilty plea), tried in absentia, accepted drop-in guilty pleas, fail-to-respond convictions and prepaid fines).

tion Act of South Australia? [Originally tabled 27 February 1989. Tabled 26 April 1989]

See sessional paper 41.

**18. Mr Jackson:** Would the Attorney General state, in light of his answers to questions 345 and 346 (Orders and Notices 84), whether in his opinion the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board requires alternatives to the right of subrogation in order to more fairly distribute the costs of crime between offenders and the law-abiding public? [Originally tabled 27 February 1989. Tabled 26 April 1989]

**Hon Mr Scott:** The Ministry of the Attorney General is willing to consider suggestions for alternatives to the rights of subrogation under the Compensation for Victims of Crime Act.

## TIMBER MANAGEMENT

**61. Mr Wildman:** Would the Minister of Natural Resources table in this House copies of all papers, documents and submissions provided by his ministry to the class environmental assessment hearings on timber management in Thunder Bay to date? [Tabled May 4, 1989]

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** This ministry's statement of evidence and the daily transcript of proceedings are already available to the public in more than 20 locations across this province, including the ministry's library on the fourth floor of the Whitney Block (a list of locations is attached). Therefore, I see little purpose in duplicating this material and then tabling it in the House.

### Repository locations

Environmental Assessment Board: Toronto, Thunder Bay (while hearings on).

Public libraries: Dryden, Espanola, Fort Frances, Hearst, Kenora, New Liskeard, North Bay, Peterborough, Red Lake, Sault Ste Marie, Sioux Lookout, Timmins.

Ministry of Natural Resources offices: Toronto, Bancroft, Cochrane, Geraldton, Huntsville, Ignace, Kapuskasing, London, Sudbury, Wawa.

Ministry of the Environment offices: Ottawa.

University libraries: University of Toronto (John Roberts), Lakehead University (school of forestry).

### DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH

**108. Mr Runciman:** Will the Minister of Health provide details of any "incentive payments" awarded Deputy Minister Barkin to encourage or assist his transfer from Sunnybrook Hospital to the Ministry of Health? [Tabled 8 May 1989]

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** It is not possible to provide specific personal information about Dr Barkin because the type of disclosure requested is forbidden by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Clause 21(3)(f) of that act presumes the disclosure of information that describes an individual's finances or income to be an unjustified invasion of the individual's personal privacy.

### MINISTER'S STAFF

**109. Mr Runciman:** Will the Minister of Housing advise whether or not any member of her staff is paid in excess of \$99,000 per year and if yes, provide the names of those individuals? [Tabled 8 May 1989]

**Hon Ms Hošek:** No member of my staff is paid in excess of \$99,000 per year.

### HIGHWAY SAFETY

**173. Mr Wiseman:** Would the Minister of Transportation state what action his ministry plans to take to curtail the number of serious winter accidents which have taken place on Highway 17, just west of Webbwood in the township of Hallam, concession 5, lot 9, district of Sudbury, between the overpass and the Birch Creek Bridge? [Tabled 11 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Fulton:** Geometrically, the highway alignment in this specific area is within the acceptable design standards utilized for Highway 17 and well in excess of the maximum posted

speed limit. Also, our review of accidents for the previous five years indicated that the accident rate for this section of the highway compares favourably to the overall average for King's highways in Ontario.

Our review of this area does not indicate any specific factors which could be directly attributable to an accident situation. However, as a result of concerns expressed by local residents, the staff in Sudbury district have been alerted to pay particular attention to maintenance and road conditions on this section of the highway in order to provide the safest conditions possible. The ministry will also continue to monitor highway operations in this area to ensure no specific problems do exist.

### INTERIM ANSWERS

**66 and 67. Mr Runciman—Hon Mr Sweeney:** Full responses cannot be prepared within the time period outlined in standing order 88(d). Full responses will be provided on or about 10 May 1989.

**77 and 78. Mr McCague—Hon Mr Eakins:** The time required to answer these questions is going to be longer than the 14 days allowed. The answer should be available on or about 30 May 1989.

**82 to 89, 92 and 93. Mr Eves—Hon Mrs Caplan:** My ministry is presently reviewing these questions and we anticipate responses will be available on or about 5 July 1989.

**125. Mrs Marland—Hon Mr Curling:** A consolidated answer is being prepared and will be available on or about 13 July 1989.

**134. Mr Reville—Hon Mrs Caplan:** My ministry is presently reviewing this question and we anticipate a response will be available on or about 5 July 1989.

**139. Mr R. F. Johnston—Hon Mr Ward:** An answer is not available at this time. The question will be responded to on or before 2 June 1989.

**147 and 148. Mr Allen—Hon Mr Patten:** The Ministry of Government Services requires additional time to provide the information required by these questions. The answers should be available on or about 28 August 1989.

**149 to 152. Mr J. M. Johnson—Hon Mr Patten:** The Ministry of Government Services requires additional time to provide the information required by these questions. The answers should be available on or about 30 June 1989.

**153, 154 and 157 to 161. Mr J. M. Johnson—Hon Mr Patten:** The Ministry of

Government Services requires additional time to provide the information required by these questions. The answers should be available on or about 28 August 1989.

**155 and 156. Mr J. M. Johnson—Hon Mr Patten:** The conference in question was sponsored by the Ministry of Northern Development. The Ministry of Government Services has referred these questions to the Minister of Northern Development and the answers will be available on or about 19 June 1989.

## RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

### NATUROPATHY

Sessional paper P-1, re naturopathy.

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** The final recommendations of the health professions legislation review have been received and were tabled in the Legislature on 26 January 1989. In its final recommendations, the review continued to recommend that the profession of naturopathy not be regulated.

The Ministry of Health has circulated the HPLR's final recommendations to professional governing bodies and other interested parties and is itself assessing the recommendations and their implications. I am meeting with those groups most affected by the review and its recommendations prior to introducing legislation. Included in these groups will be the Board of Directors of Drugless Therapy—Naturopaths and the Ontario Naturopathic Association.

### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

Sessional paper P-2, re Teacher's Superannuation Act.

**Hon Mr Ward:** The issue of providing a pension based on a "best five" years' service to those who have already retired must be viewed in the context of the overall financial situation of the teachers' pension plan.

Studies have shown that a "best five" recalculation would have considerable cost implications for the teachers' pension funds. Studies have also indicated that such a measure would not provide significant improvements for those who retired prior to 1976 and did not benefit from improved salary conditions and inflation protection.

In 1985 this issue was referred to the Public Sector Pensions Advisory Board, which reviewed the matter and recommended against such a change. Following these recommendations, the government decided that the most effective use of limited resources would be to augment low pensions with an ad hoc increase for

teachers who retired prior to 1976. This improvement was implemented in 1987 and has been paid for entirely by the government.

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Sessional paper P-7, re workers' compensation.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act will result in significant improvements in the Ontario workers' compensation system. The bill does respond to the recent task force report on the Workers' Compensation Board vocational rehabilitation services by providing for timely and effective rehabilitation services. The re-employment obligations placed on employers will assist many more workers to return to work more quickly.

The bill also provides for a new dual award approach to compensating injured workers for the impact of a permanent disability resulting from a workplace accident. In addition, the bill makes provision for supplementary benefits for those current recipients of permanent disability awards who are not being compensated adequately.

The bill has already received second reading and has been sent to the standing committee on resources development for its consideration. That consideration is now in process and should be allowed to continue.

## RECYCLING

Sessional paper P-9, re recycling of phone directories.

**Hon Mr Bradley:** I certainly share the viewpoint of the Guelph citizens who are petitioning the Parliament of Ontario to encourage Bell Canada to act immediately so that they can recycle telephone directories.

Environment ministry staff have already discussed the situation with Bell Canada. It is exploring with its printer the possibility of staging the distribution of telephone directories over several months throughout the province in order to create a steady volume of old directories to be included in de-inking of newsprint. Atlantic Packaging has announced plans to construct a new de-inking paper mill to begin operation in 1990. The company has indicated that it may be possible to use telephone directories as part of their wastepaper feedstock. Alternative uses for recycled fibre such as building materials and animal bedding are also being pursued by private sector proponents. Domtar Recycling have identified an overseas customer for used telephone directories in container lot quantities. I would

recommend that the city of Guelph pursue this opportunity as part of its pioneering municipal multimaterial recycling project.

I will be writing to Bell Canada to encourage it to go forward as quickly as possible with plans to ensure that telephone directories distributed throughout Ontario are recycled.

I wish to thank the Guelph citizens for their petition and for their enthusiasm to expand recycling to items that offer additional recycling opportunities. Such interest will play a key role in realizing the goal of 50 per cent waste diversion from disposal by the year 2000 that I announced on 10 March 1989.

#### HOME CARE

Sessional paper P-10, re Victorian Order of Nurses.

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** The Victorian Order of Nurses has been a valued provider of nursing services to this ministry's local home care

programs for many years. These services have been fully funded, and when a deficit occurred in 1985-86 it was also funded.

In 1988-89 a further deficit, estimated by VON to be \$2.5 million, was brought to our attention, and I was pleased to announce on 5 May that this deficit will be fully funded.

During 1988, the management consulting firm of Stevenson, Kellogg, Ernst and Whinney conducted, as a joint undertaking of the Ministry of Health and VON (Ontario), an operational review of six VON branches. The report on this project made a number of recommendations to improve operational linkages and long-term funding arrangements between the two parties and outlined opportunities to improve efficiencies within the VON. Ministry staff are currently working with the VON (Ontario) to implement these recommendations. In the meantime, discussions related to satisfactory funding arrangement for the current year are in progress.

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS\*

(130 seats)

Second Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- 
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)  
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)  
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)  
 Beer, Charles (York North L)  
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)  
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)  
**Bradley, Hon James J.**, Minister of the Environment (St Catharines L)  
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)  
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)  
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)  
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)  
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)  
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)  
**Caplan, Hon Elinor**, Minister of Health (Orillia L)  
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)  
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)  
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)  
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)  
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)  
**Conway, Hon Sean G.**, Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)  
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)  
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)  
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)  
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)  
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)  
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)  
**Curling, Hon Alvin**, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)  
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)  
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St Catharines-Brock L)  
**Eakins, Hon John F.**, Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)  
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 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)  
**Elston, Hon Murray J.**, Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Financial Institutions (Bruce L)  
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 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)  
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 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)  
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)  
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)  
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
- Fontaine, Hon René**, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)  
**Fulton, Hon Ed**, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)  
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**Grandmaître, Hon Bernard C.**, Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)  
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 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)  
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)  
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 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)  
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)  
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 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)  
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)  
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)  
 Kanter, Ron (St Andrew-St Patrick L)  
**Kerrio, Hon Vincent G.**, Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)  
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)  
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)  
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)  
**Kwinter, Hon Monte**, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)  
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)  
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 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)  
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)  
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)  
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)  
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)  
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)  
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 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)  
 Matrondola, Gino (Willowdale L)  
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 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)  
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)  
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)  
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)  
**McLeod, Hon Lyn**, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)  
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)

Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)  
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)  
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste Marie NDP)  
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)  
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)  
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)  
**Nixon, Hon Robert F.**, Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Brant-Haldimand L)  
**Oddie Munro, Hon Lily**, Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)  
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)  
**O'Neil, Hon Hugh P.**, Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)  
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)  
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)  
**Patten, Hon Richard**, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)  
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)  
**Peterson, Hon David R.**, Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)  
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)  
**Phillips, Hon Gerry**, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)  
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)  
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)  
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)  
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)  
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)  
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)  
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)  
**Ramsay, Hon David**, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)  
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-Walkerville L)  
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)  
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

**Riddell, Hon Jack**, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)  
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)  
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)  
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)  
**Scott, Hon Ian G.**, Attorney General (St George-St David L)  
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)  
**Smith, Hon E. Joan**, Solicitor General (London South L)  
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)  
**Sorbara, Hon Gregory S.**, Minister of Labour (York Centre L)  
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)  
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)  
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)  
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)  
**Sweeney, Hon John**, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)  
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)  
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)  
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)  
**Ward, Hon Christopher C.**, Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)  
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)  
**Wilson, Hon Mavis**, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)  
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)  
**Wong, Hon Robert C.**, Minister of Energy (Fort York L)  
**Wrye, Hon William**, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

\*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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Document  
Publication

No. 19

# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario



**Second Session, 34th Parliament**  
Monday, 29 May 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, 29 May 1989

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## ESTIMATES

**Hon Mr Elston:** I have a message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor signed by his own hand. The Lieutenant Governor transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending 31 March 1990 and recommends them to the Legislative Assembly.

## LEGISLATIVE PAGES

**The Deputy Speaker:** I would like to ask all members to join me in welcoming the second group of legislative pages to serve in the second session of the 34th Parliament in this year. They are:

Joshua Arthurs, St George-St David; Jessica Connell, Muskoka-Georgian Bay; Karen Cooke, Etobicoke-Lakeshore; Theresa Cooke, St Andrew-St Patrick; Drayden Cureatz, Durham East; Danielle Da Sylva, Algoma-Manitoulin; Siobhan Gibson, Don Mills; Lisa Goegan, Mississauga North; Matthew Goodman, St Catharines; Ryan Hordy, Fort William; Mary Catherine Jack, Perth; Stephanie Jackson, Etobicoke West; Steven Jensen, Simcoe West; Sean Kaley, Sudbury East; Sarah Mee, St Catharines-Brock; Robin Middleton, Grey; Tamara Nailer, Hastings-Peterborough; Shane Pascoe, Prince Edward-Lennox; Carl Riley, Etobicoke-Rexdale; Emma Sevitt, Oakwood; Jessica South, Frontenac-Addington; Cain Vangel, Scarborough East; Alan Webb, London North; Jennifer Whelpley, Peterborough; Marc Wortman, Cochrane North, and Ronald Yip, Scarborough-Agincourt.

Please welcome them.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### HEALTH CARE FOR VISITORS

**Mr Hampton:** Today in the Toronto Star there is a large headline that reads "Ambulance Crisis Blamed in Man's Death." The same headline could very easily have been repeated in north-western Ontario this past weekend. A young woman who now lives in Saskatchewan was

visiting with her parents in my constituency when her health began to fail. She went to the local hospital in the village of Emo and was examined by the local medical staff. The doctor very quickly decided that the young woman had to be sent to a larger hospital in Winnipeg and had to be sent very quickly.

He felt then and he feels now that the situation was not an emergency, but serious enough to warrant immediate action. The ambulance dispatch was called and the young woman was told that, because she is not a resident of Ontario, the cost of an air ambulance would be \$1,500, the cost of a land ambulance to Winnipeg would be \$600 and could they have the money up front, please?

She did not have \$1,500 or \$600, nor did her family, and so she was dispatched to Winnipeg in the back of a car. She is in hospital in Winnipeg today and spent the rest of the weekend in Winnipeg. This all smacks of US-style health care: pay the money up front before you get service. One would think that the provinces could have got together by now to arrange something better.

### NEWCASTLE'S HERITAGE WEEK

**Mr Cureatz:** I would like to bring to the attention of all members of the assembly and people across Ontario, more particularly those in the region of Durham, that this is Heritage Week in the town of Newcastle, one of the larger municipalities in my riding of Durham East.

The town of Newcastle was incorporated from four smaller municipalities under regional government, I say to the member for Durham West (Mrs Stoner): the town of Bowmanville, the former village of Newcastle and the townships of Clarke and Darlington. We have had some growing pains over the last number of years, but as fate would have it—it has taken a long time—our four former communities are now starting to work together.

This is one of the first aspects of that kind of co-operation that we see in Heritage Week. To refresh people's memories as to what has already taken place, on Friday evening we had the official opening with her worship Mayor Hubbard at our new community town centre.

Saturday, of course, we had our parade downtown. On Sunday we had the pancake breakfast.

Coming up, this evening we have a seniors' organization putting on a small tea, Wednesday is Participaction Challenge Day, Thursday and Friday have more lunches in the community and Saturday finishes off with, among other things, the Bowmanville Rotary Club, of which I am a very proud member, with a barbecue at the new Bowmanville Recreation Complex.

I want to invite all people, especially in the region of Durham, who are close to the town of Newcastle to come and enjoy the festivities of Heritage Week.

#### WOMEN IN BUSINESS

**Mr Adams:** There are still some who find it difficult to believe the reality that women are moving into dominant positions in both traditional and nontraditional occupations. Women are actually the more buoyant part of our workforce today. In fact, approximately a third of new businesses established in Ontario in the last few years were owned and operated by women.

On International Women's Day, I attended an event in my riding of Peterborough, to discover no fewer than 30 women-owned businesses represented in display booths. The focus that evening was on home-based or cottage industries. Since that time, I have discovered that there are many more in the Peterborough riding.

The businesses include landscape gardening, interior design, home renovations, handicrafts and clothing of all sorts, astrology, computerized hair care and ceramics as well as the new and booming Indisposable Diaper Co. If small business is the foundation of our economy, surely these tiny home-based industries are the stuff of our private enterprise society.

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#### AUTOMATION PROGRAM FOR SMALL LIBRARIES

**Miss Martel:** Within the last month I have received correspondence from several public library boards concerned with the automation program for small libraries. This program is sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and Communications and provides grant moneys to small libraries to automate their services. Library boards representing the towns of Collingwood, Milton, Thorold, Port Colborne and Fort Erie have written to express their concern regarding the selection criteria, the long delay in decision-making and notification of denials, and the

wasted efforts of boards applying to a program insufficiently funded from the beginning.

Ministry officials or approved consultants were involved with each application from its inception. The minister knew how many boards were applying for funding and how much money was in place to meet the needs. Promotion of the program should have been halted when the well ran dry. Instead, 41 library boards continued to complete their requests for proposals, conduct cost-benefit studies, analyse and choose a fully integrated system, seek municipal council support in principle for matching funds and submit all the documentation by September 1988.

Boards not qualifying for funding were not advised until March of this year. At that point some boards were then forced to return to municipal council to request more funding for the automation project, this after the municipal budgets had already been set. For many boards it was a waste of precious time, money and resources to apply to a program not adequately funded in the first place. I urge the ministry to keep this in mind if the program is ever revived again.

#### HOME CARE

**Mr Eves:** I have a statement with respect to home care. I rise today to inform the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan) and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney) about some problems people have related to me that they are experiencing with eligibility processes for home care and homemaker services in the province.

I recently received a letter from a woman whose mother was denied homemaker services because the social worker had determined that her mother was a high risk to stay in her own home. The social worker recommended that she be institutionalized. The woman was no longer in need of medical visits from nurses; she simply required assistance for household chores occasionally.

In a similar case, I have been informed by the family of an elderly woman who speaks no English at all that the Ministry of Health home care people recommended that this woman be institutionalized instead of receiving a visit from a nurse once a week. The woman had been hospitalized for several days because of difficulty with her breathing. The family wanted to keep their mother at home, and all that was needed was a supply of oxygen and a weekly visit from a nurse to check her blood pressure and heartbeat.

and help bathe her, but the local home care people said she should be institutionalized.

We find these situations somewhat disturbing. We have families who are ready, willing and able to care for their elderly relatives in the comfort of their own homes, and the government with its home care and homemaker programs should not be discouraging them from doing so, but should in fact be making more home care and more homemaker services available to those who need it in the province.

### HAMILTON CIVIC AIRPORT

**Ms Collins:** This House is well aware of the serious congestion at Pearson International Airport in Toronto. This situation is raised periodically in the media during peak travel times or when the latest near-miss comes to light. Hamilton Civic Airport is the ideal alternative to Pearson. City and regional officials in the Hamilton area have been pursuing this matter with the federal government for many months.

The federal government has been slow to respond, while on the other hand the provincial government has recognized the need for immediate action. When the question of a licence for a duty-free liquor outlet arose, the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations sent a letter to the region offering to locate a Liquor Control Board of Ontario outlet at the airport to serve international passengers.

On 17 February the Premier (Mr Peterson) urged the Prime Minister to work with Ontario to make better use of the Hamilton facility. On that same day I asked the Minister of Transportation (Mr Fulton) to accelerate the new Highway 6 alignment to the airport to provide better road access for travellers. The minister responded, saying he wanted to move quickly. On 17 May the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) included the acceleration of this project in the budget.

Our government is doing its share; the federal government is not. Action by the federal government is long overdue. The time for rhetoric and commissions has long since passed. Now is the time to get on with using the Hamilton airport to its full potential.

**The Deputy Speaker:** For one minute, the member for Hamilton West.

### DAY CAMP

**Mr Allen:** One sometimes wonders whether the government, in implementing and in timing some of its program changes, has due regard for some of the side effects that are going to follow.

For example, when the Minister of Skills Development (Mr Curling) cancelled the Ontario summer employment program, he certainly did not inquire about its impact on the summer day camp program of the Young Women's Christian Association in our community, which relies upon this fund in order to subsidize the counsellors who help guide the camp and thereby is also unable to provide a subsidy to the low-income families in the community who access this camp almost exclusively.

Particularly with the timing, the result has been that it has been very difficult to maintain the level of fees that would, first, make it possible for those families to easily access the camp and, second, make it possible to secure other funding that might have replaced the original.

### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY YOUNG OFFENDER RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** I wish to announce that my ministry is acting on the recommendations contained in the report on the Review of the Young Offender Residential Service System that was tabled in this House two weeks ago. This report provides us with a blueprint for action. Some recommendations will be implemented quickly, and the results will be evident. Others will involve longer-term planning, which has already begun.

In order to assist young offenders to become productive members of society and to do so in a safe and secure environment which protects the staff, the public and the children themselves, the following steps will be taken.

We will increase funds to community residential programs for children so that they can increase the wages of their direct-care staff at the low end of the salary scale. All programs serving young offenders exclusively will be funded for double staffing at night. Effective immediately, probation officers and provincial directors will use the risk indicators outlined in the report to guide their decision-making regarding the placement of young offenders. They will also ensure that information related to these factors is shared with service providers in the community.

Over the coming months, we will work with service providers to validate the effectiveness of these indicators.

Young offenders who are considered to be potentially dangerous now will be dealt with in the young offender system. Only by exception, when unique treatment needs exist, will they be

placed in other programs. When this does occur, additional supports will be made available to the program to ensure safety and security.

The capacity of the secure custody/ detention system is being increased to alleviate the current overcrowding, and specific upgrades are being made to the security of facilities for young offenders.

As well, we will fund the provision of personal security devices for staff; fund the development of new training programs; develop specialized staffing resources to ensure the safe transportation of young offenders; ensure that the ministry staffing guideline for secure facilities is appropriately in place and work on the development of enhanced standards and guidelines.

Since tabling the report on the young offender residential system two weeks ago, I have been informed that the federal government has frozen its funding to the provinces for services to young offenders. I feel that this is inappropriate, and it certainly makes our job more difficult.

My announcement last week relating to the increased funding to community-based agencies included \$7.9 million for implementation of these recommendations. That announcement also included additional funding to improve the salaries of people working in the young offender system. To ensure that all of these initiatives are implemented effectively, I have charged my assistant deputy minister of operations with that responsibility.

I am confident that the commitments we are making today, in partnership with our service providers, will enhance the safety and security of the public and of residents and staff in our programs for young offenders.

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** Following from the statement of my colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney), I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Correctional Services will be providing funding in the amount of \$9 million in response to the recommendations contained in the recent review of security and staffing in young offender community residences.

This additional funding will be applied to 53 youth residences throughout the province which provide education and literacy training, counselling for substance abuse, job readiness training, life skills education and other rehabilitative programs, as well as residential accommodation for 16- and 17-year-old young offenders ordered by the court to serve terms of open custody, as it is defined under the Young Offenders Act.

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The funding will also apply to adult residences that are geared towards easing the transition of adult offenders from life in a correctional institution to supportive community living.

This review identified several areas for improvement to our present system, areas which for the most part have been the subject of ongoing refinement by my ministry in consultation with our network of community agencies.

Of particular note are the recommendations concerning staffing levels and salary compensation in young offender open custody residences. I am pleased to inform the House that with these new resources, our community correctional residences will be able to augment their present staff levels, particularly during the night-time hours, in the interests of the safety and security of both residents and staff.

In addition, this increased funding will permit our agencies to enhance the salaries and certain benefits of many front-line workers in our community correctional residences.

We want to ensure that those among the lowest paid of community residential workers will receive salary and benefit compensation that is in keeping with the serious nature of their responsibilities.

The review also made recommendations on enhanced physical security measures and standards for training of residence staff.

My ministry has been engaged in ongoing discussions with our community agencies on these and other matters, and has established a set of standards encompassing all the procedures and activities in our community residences.

My officials will be reviewing these particular recommendations with all our contractors to determine the optimal response to meet the requirements of each individual facility.

These initiatives will enhance our commitments to providing a safe, secure environment for staff and residents.

#### ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** In our recent speech from the throne, our government identified AIDS prevention and treatment as one of several specialty care areas in which my ministry continues to concentrate its efforts and resources.

Earlier today, I announced that my ministry will be providing new funding of over \$7.4 million for the care and treatment of people with AIDS or those who are HIV-positive, as well as

for AIDS education and community support programs.

Among the new AIDS initiatives is funding for a clinic at the Toronto Rosedale Medical Centre, where aerosolized pentamidine is now available to patients on physician referral. Aerosolized pentamidine is being made available in Ontario to further test its effectiveness in controlling secondary AIDS infections, notably PCP or pneumocystis carinii pneumonia.

In providing access to aerosolized pentamidine, my ministry is thereby continuing to ensure that the most effective drug therapies are available in this province for people with HIV infection.

The Ministry of Health is providing a one-time grant of \$100,000 towards setting up the Rosedale clinic, as well as \$550,000 a year for its operation, which includes the cost of the drug. The Rosedale clinic is the first of its type in Canada and is being administered by the Sunnybrook Medical Centre. As members know, Sunnybrook already distributes AZT, or azidothymidine, another AIDS drug, to 56 hospitals in Ontario. We are therefore capitalizing on our earlier achievements in drug accessibility.

Today, I am also announcing funds for three new AIDS outpatient clinics at hospitals in Toronto, Hamilton and London.

The new outpatient clinic at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital will be unique in its focus on psychiatric help. Mount Sinai staff will be available to counsel people with AIDS or HIV infection, as well as families and friends. My ministry is providing a one-time grant of \$28,000 to establish the Mount Sinai clinic. Operating funds will total \$160,300 a year.

A new AIDS clinic at Chedoke-McMaster Hospitals in Hamilton, at the McMaster hospital site, will receive a one-time grant of \$72,200 with annual operating funds of \$309,500.

St Joseph's Health Centre in London will be receiving funding to open a clinic near the hospital. St Joseph's will receive a one-time grant of \$60,100 to establish the new facility, and operating funds will total \$335,500 a year.

Our three new hospital outpatient clinics will add to the network already in operation. That network now includes Ottawa General Hospital and five hospitals in Toronto: Toronto General Hospital, Toronto Western Hospital, St Michael's Hospital, the Hospital for Sick Children and the Sunnybrook Medical Centre.

This expansion of Ontario's AIDS care network means more AIDS patients and their families will be able to take advantage of

treatment facilities and support networks near their home communities.

I am also announcing today that my ministry will allocate an additional \$2 million to assist community groups to provide AIDS education and support at the local community level. I am asking the groups that might be interested in applying for funds to submit their proposals to the ministry by 18 August. Funding will be available for both new programs and the expansion of existing ones.

Since it began in June 1987, my ministry's community support program has funded AIDS committees in 10 centres across the province: in Toronto, London, Hamilton, Ottawa, Windsor, Kingston, Thunder Bay, Guelph, Sudbury and Kitchener-Waterloo.

With the additional funding committed today, my ministry expenditures to the community support programs for people with AIDS in this province will rise to \$3.4 million this fiscal year. That is an increase of over 140 per cent on the \$1.4 million already committed by my ministry for 1989-90.

An additional \$3.1 million will also be going to Ontario's 43 local boards of health. This represents an increase of nearly 80 per cent on what we had already committed to boards of health for AIDS initiatives this year.

Ontario is proud to have launched one of the most aggressive campaigns in our society's battle against AIDS. Indeed, throughout Canada and the world we are regarded as a leader. Today's announcement confirms our government's commitment to see this battle through to the end.

Let me conclude by saying that I look forward to attending the international AIDS conference to be held in Montreal next week. I expect the conference will be an excellent opportunity for countries to share information and expertise as together we seek answers to human immunodeficiency virus infection and HIV disease.

#### CANADA'S FITWEEK

**Hon Mr O'Neil:** I rise to challenge the pride and the pulse rates of all the members of the House to take part in the country's biggest celebration of physical activity: Canada's Fitweek.

Last year, 7.5 million Canadians participated in 17,200 Fitweek events. I am certain we can make that number even higher this year.

On Wednesday, the seventh annual Crown Life Participation Challenge Day will take the country by storm once again. Last year, 322 communities got into the act. Keno City, Yukon,

had 100 per cent involvement when all of its 37 residents joined in. In Japan, the city of Nayora, which was challenged by its twin city of Lindsay, Ontario, participated.

Here in Toronto, the Premier's Participaction Challenge will again be one of the highlights of Challenge Day events. Premier Peterson will lead a light workout on the front steps of the Ontario Legislature starting at 8:30 am Wednesday, 31 May.

I would ask all members to join us in that participation.

This year, Toronto has taken on Vancouver to see which city can involve more people. As the members know, we have had a heated rivalry with Montreal for the past two years, and I am sure we will give Vancouver a run for its money.

Challenge Day, of course, goes beyond enjoying friendly competition. As our government expressed in the recent throne speech, nearly a quarter of our provincial health care budget is currently spent on treating preventable, lifestyle-related diseases. I am sure all the members appreciate how important it is for us to encourage physical fitness.

Last year, over three million people in 74 communities across Ontario participated in Challenge Day. This year, we will do even better. Our province and all of Canada are world leaders in the fitness and wellness movements. So let us stay there out front—on the front steps at 8:30 Wednesday morning, 31 May.

1400

## RESPONSES

### YOUNG OFFENDER RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

**Mr Allen:** I want to respond to the double-decker announcement by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney) and the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr Ramsay).

I think I should say in the first instance that we in this party are delighted that the government has moved as quickly as it has with respect to the Review of the Young Offender Residential Service System. The incidents that lay behind that report caused a good deal of concern around the province and it was obviously an area that needed to be responded to very quickly.

We hope the \$7.9 million is going to be sufficient to put in place the reforms intended and will increase the salary levels and the services available, such that the system will be much better able to attract more competent, better trained staff in the future, and also that there will

be enough provision for those devices the minister has referred to to enable the safety of the personnel in the homes to be adequately protected.

We are pleased to see that the double staffing arrangement is going to be extended not just to young offenders institutions themselves, but at least in some instances to the community homes that occasionally house young offenders for special treatment purposes.

Given the clientele of the homes—emotionally disturbed young people who have had severe problems in many instances—there may be some concern remaining about single staffing under any circumstances and I hope the minister will think a little bit further about that.

With regard to the risk indicators the minister is going to be putting in place, I recall that a study indicated there was not really any clear consensus as to when that combination of risk indicators really precipitates a thoroughly risky situation. I hope the minister will be further refining the indicators in further studies and applications so that we will have a much better handle on when and how we detect the risk situations, which of course are the precipitating elements in the tragedies we have had heretofore.

Let me simply say that we hope there are sufficient resources being put into the program reforms that they can be effectively carried out.

### ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

**Mr Reville:** The Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan) today has made her sixth announcement, so this must be week 6 of the session. Let me say that the minister opened her press conference with more of a bang than usual today and I can see the headline now: "Health Minister Turns Tables on Press: More at Eleven."

On a more serious note, I would like to extend my congratulations to people with AIDS and their support groups who have worked very hard to become educated about this very difficult disease and clearly I want to congratulate the minister on her initiatives in this regard.

I would point out that the city of Toronto last year spent almost \$5 million on AIDS-related efforts. It turned down \$1.5-million worth of requests by community groups, so the \$2 million the minister is announcing for that function will not go all that far.

I am concerned as well that the minister has sidestepped the difficult issue of anonymous testing and I hope we will hear from the government in that regard very soon. I do hope

the minister is now committed to making AIDS the manageable chronic disease it has become in other jurisdictions.

### CANADA'S FITWEEK

**Mr Reville:** If I might, I will respond as well to the statement by the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr O'Neil) regarding Canada's Fitweek. While we in the New Democratic Party would encourage all Canadians and all Ontarians to be as fit as possible, it will be difficult to match the display of synchronized dancing we see across there.

I should point out that the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale (Mr Philip), a well-known wit, says this should be called Retrofit Week.

### YOUNG OFFENDER RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

**Mr Cureatz:** I would like to respond also, along with my colleague the member for Hamilton West (Mr Allen), to the joint announcement from the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney), and more particularly from the Ministry of Correctional Services of which I am critic, among other ministries.

We would like to congratulate the minister, as my colleague the member for Hamilton West did, in terms of the new provisions that have been made by him in terms of both support to those people who are working within the young offenders jurisdiction, and more important, to the residences. I am sorry I will not have enough time to expand further, but I am sure there will be another opportune time.

I would like to say that of course we are disappointed; it is too bad it has come at this time, when possibly the recent tragedies might have been averted. But at least it is a step by the minister to try to do his best to centre in on those kinds of concerns that were brought forward by the recent report.

I would just like to conclude by saying to the minister that of course there is a lot of work that has to be done yet, and not specifically in the youth area. I think it is important we should monitor what will take place over the next six months, but more particularly, as I indicated in my question to the minister last week upon my visitation to the Don jail, there is still a lot of improvement that has to be made within the ministry. We can begin by looking at some of our institutions.

**Mr Cousens:** The Minister of Community and Social Services has made an announcement

showing that the government is trying to respond to the needs of young offenders through the residential service system. It is quite amazing; here we are in a city that is about to open the SkyDome, and we can do a great deal when we really want to do it. Yet when it comes to serving the needs of young offenders, we have a hard time putting our act together as a society.

We know the act is flawed and the province is trying to work with the federal government to make the necessary changes to it. We know young offenders have needs within the system and have to be served. One has to support the kinds of initiatives that were delineated today in the release by the minister, in conjunction with the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr Ramsay), but I still go away and worry that we, as a society, have not begun fully to face up to our responsibilities to meet the needs of young offenders. They are still out there and they are still not being fully served. We as a society have failed our young people if we do not do a better job of it.

If the courses the ministry provides through this funding begin to help, good. If the extra services we are going to have begin to help, good. But do we have an all-encompassing plan that is really going to begin to solve the problem? I am not just sure it is there yet.

I suggest that the Minister of Community and Social Services, the Minister of Correctional Services and this government continue to put a very high emphasis on the needs of young people and make sure we are doing the job we should be doing to help them. Even in the minister's press release, he was commenting on the fact that some \$7 million is being spent, but this is from an announcement that was made the week before. How much is being identified with this project? That is not indicated in the announcement.

### ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

**Mr Eves:** I would like to congratulate the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan) on making her announcement truly with a bang today. On a more serious note, we do indeed support the initiative she has announced today.

I would just add one word of caution; I do mean a word of caution, not a derogatory remark or one too critical, I hope. I know that Wellesley Hospital has in the past indicated some concern, and I am sure there are others besides: Besides the outpatient services we are providing for AIDS patients, there is of course going to be an

oncoming need for inpatient services as well. I just ask the minister to take a look at that.

#### CANADA'S FITWEEK

**Mr McLean:** I rise to accept the challenge from the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr O'Neil) and to participate with the Premier (Mr Peterson) in this country's biggest celebration of physical activity: Canada's Fitweek. Last year, 322 communities took part in it and I hope that this year as many more will take part in it.

This is really about fitness and health care. I am pleased to see the minister mentioned that in his statement today, because it is so important. If you are physically fit, you certainly need less health care. The more people involved, the more people who take part and the more people who exercise in the morning, such as the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr Black) who does not get up in time to do that—the rest of us should look at that situation.

I anticipate once again being able to have that workout, to feel fit as a fiddle and to come in here and have some good solid questions for the ministers. We want to talk to and see Bingo Bradley here too.

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

##### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Kormos:** I have a question for the Premier. On Thursday, 25 May, he read us a letter from the Police Association of Ontario, one signed, he tells us, by a Neal Jessop. I wonder if the Premier would tell us today if he read us the whole letter, and if he did not, would he read the portions that were deleted on Thursday?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I do not have it with me, but I would be very happy to read it. We distributed copies of that letter to those who were interested in it, and I would be very happy to share a copy with the member as well.

1410

**Mr Kormos:** The transcript of Hansard from Thursday, 25 May, indicates the Premier saying: "I received a letter from them this morning which I will read to my honourable friend. It says...." Then he goes on to read what he would have us believe, I presume, was the letter, indicating that it was signed.

What was not read was this statement: "It is the position of the Police Association of Ontario that it is inappropriate for a Solicitor General of the province to intervene or to be seen as intervening in occurrences of this nature." It then goes on

with the balance of that paragraph, two more, and then the signature.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Supplementary question.

**Ms Collins:** Read the rest of it.

**Mr Breaugh:** We have to read it all? He can read selectively.

**Mr Kormos:** Selective reading. The question is, why would the Premier dare tell this Legislature that he was reading a letter from the Police Association of Ontario? As a lawyer who, I presume, has spent some time in court, he should know that there are sleazy ways to present facts and there are honest and accurate ways to present facts. Why would he deliberately create the misimpression that he was reading the whole letter, when indeed if the whole letter is read, it is the Police Association of Ontario that talks about the gross inappropriateness of the behaviour of the Solicitor General (Mrs Smith)?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** The letter was obviously no secret. Everybody is entitled to read it. My honourable friend got a copy of it and put his own construction on it.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** A part of it that you refused to read.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** He will be aware that I read the first paragraph before. I will read the last part of the letter right now, for the benefit of my honourable friend. The member is quite right; my honourable friend did quote a part of it, but why did he not choose to quote the rest of it?

**Mr Reville:** Because you covered that last week.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Let me just help the member.

"It is the position of the Police Association of Ontario that it is inappropriate for a Solicitor General of the province to intervene or to be seen as intervening in occurrences of this nature. However, our association with the Solicitor General since the beginning of her tenure in this office would lead us to sincerely believe that she would not in any circumstances deliberately attempt to subvert or defeat the course of justice in any way at any time.

"You may rest assured that since the Solicitor General, Mrs Joan Smith, has taken office that the proper course of policing in Ontario has made excellent progress.

"We anticipate that this will serve to clarify any misunderstanding that may have arisen over this recent newspaper article.

"Yours very truly, Neal W. Jessop, president."

**Mr Kormos:** I still have some real concerns that the Premier did not see it appropriate to read that when he read us that letter on 25 May; that he created the misimpression that he was reading the whole letter, when he knew full well that he was not.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Question?

**Mr Kormos:** The question is, and the Premier reads on, whether or not the Solicitor General's conduct was designed to deliberately subvert or defeat the course of justice, is it not true that it remains the impression among the public across this province that the course of justice was not allowed to take its proper course and that indeed there was inappropriate conduct on the part of the Solicitor General, for which she and the government now have to be held responsible?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I understand my honourable friend's subjective judgement in this matter. He has his own view, and he is entitled to stand in this House and discuss it and share his view. But, no, I do not share his view of this matter. I respect his right to have it, but I say that as much as my friend might like to try to have a different impression, I think that is not the impression. Certainly the independent police report did not have that impression; there was no subversion of justice.

I say to my honourable friend—and he can see that the police association takes the same view—I think his subjective impression in this matter is not one that is widely shared in all sectors of the community. In any event, I think we have to make a decision in this matter and my honourable friend knows my decision.

**Mr Reville:** My questions are of the Solicitor General. No one has ever alleged during the questioning to the minister or the Premier that the Solicitor General deliberately attempted to subvert the course of justice. No one has alleged that.

I wonder if the Solicitor General has had an opportunity to read today's Toronto Star column by Thomas Walkom with the headline, "Even Decent Politicians May Need to Resign." The other politician is Michael Wilson. What Mr Walkom says partway down in his article is: "What is at issue in both cases is a question of responsibility. Sometimes, the nature of a person's work makes him or her responsible for matters that have nothing to do with intent." I wonder if the Solicitor General agrees with that statement.

**Hon Mrs Smith:** Would you read the last part of your question again?

**Mr Reville:** Do you agree with the statement that: "What is at issue in both cases is a question of responsibility. Sometimes, the nature of a person's work makes him or her responsible for matters that have nothing to do with intent"?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** Certainly there are sometimes questions that do not have to do with intent.

**Mr Reville:** Thank you. We may be getting somewhere.

The case involving the previous Solicitor General was unique in that a police report was released following the allegations that were made of impropriety on his behalf. We are advised that that unique situation came about because the previous Solicitor General said it would be all right if that report were to be released. I wonder if the Solicitor General would say it is all right for the report involving her conduct to be released.

**Hon Mrs Smith:** The member will be well aware that I was not accused of a crime. The Attorney General (Mr Scott) further advises that he would not like to let this be released.

**Mr Reville:** I do not recall the Attorney General having made such a statement in the House or outside the House. I have not asked a question of the Attorney General. I think the Solicitor General's referring to the Attorney General's view is something that the jury should disregard. Do you not?

Again, we have discussed this report, which we have not seen, which the Premier refused to table and which the Solicitor General now tries to muddle the fuzzification of by suggesting that the report does not talk about her criminal behaviour. Surely the point of the report was to determine whether or not the Solicitor General had committed acts that might justify an accusation of criminal behaviour or whether police officers with whom she talked behaved in a way which might justify criminal charges.

Can the Solicitor General not realize that were she to stand in the House and say that it would be fine with her if the report were tabled, that that would go a long way to resolving this matter?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** No, it would not be fine with me if the report were tabled. The investigation was held, as the member knows, and nothing was found wrong with it. A young man stands before the courts at this time.

**Mr Runciman:** My question is to the Premier. The Premier will no doubt recall that in the George Kerr case in 1978, the then leader of the Liberal Party and of the opposition, Dr Stuart

Smith, called for Mr Kerr's resignation pending the outcome of an investigation by a legislative committee into the propriety of Mr Kerr's actions. Dr Smith stated at the time, "I am not trying to be political about this, but I believe Mr Kerr has made a grave error and should offer his resignation out of sheer propriety."

When we compare the position of the Liberal Party in 1978 to the attitude of the Liberal government in 1989 with regard to what is generally accepted as a grave error in judgement made by the Solicitor General, would the Premier not acknowledge that this comparison shows that his party's standards of what constitutes acceptable conduct on the part of ministers of the crown were considerably higher and more stringent in opposition than they are in government?

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**Hon Mr Peterson:** If that is the honourable member's view, maybe the same thing applies to others as well. I just say to my honourable friend that he has asked these questions on several occasions and my answers are the same.

**Mr Runciman:** The Premier may also recall that Mr Kerr tendered his resignation because, as he acknowledged before a committee of this House, his call to an assistant crown attorney was "a call which should never have been made and which reflected bad judgement on my part," and as he put it to the committee, "because of my concern about the ministry, my concern about the government."

Given that in the current case we are dealing with a visit to a police station which should never have been made, and a subsequent call which should never have been made and which reflected bad judgement on the part of the current Solicitor General, can the Premier tell us why he is willing to accept and why the people of the province should be expected to accept a lower standard of ministerial accountability and responsibility and a lower degree of concern about the credibility of the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the administration of justice and law enforcement than was demonstrated by a minister in 1978?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** The honourable member will be aware, because we have discussed this before in the House, that I view those situations differently. He may not, and I respect his view. The Solicitor General responded to a cry and a call in the middle of the night. He is familiar with the circumstances and judgements have to be made thereon. As I said, I respect the honourable

member's view on this subject, but he knows mine as well.

**Mr Runciman:** I will try again with respect to Mr Kerr's resignation. At the time, he said, "I am the political head of the police in Ontario, and like Caesar's wife, I've got to be above reproach." As he put it in his letter of resignation to the Premier, "As the senior law officer of the crown, I am wholly conscious of the fact that there can be no suggestion of impropriety on my part that could in any way reflect upon the administration of justice and law enforcement."

Surely the Premier would agree that is the standard by which the conduct of his ministers must be judged. Would he not agree that by that standard, the current Solicitor General must be removed from office?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I am just repeating answers I have given to my honourable friend before, in response to essentially the same question. As he knows, I have reflected on this at great length, I have had the benefit of advice from a number of people on both sides of the question and I distinguish between those two cases for the reasons I have shared with my friend.

**Mr Runciman:** Again to the Premier, on the police report by the Ontario Provincial Police taking a look at the actions that occurred on the morning of 9 April, the Premier indicated in the House last week that there was no evidence given with respect to what the Solicitor General said to the police on that evening, the visit or the phone call, nor how the police responded to the Solicitor General's call.

Can the Premier indicate why that kind of evidence, which we feel is critical to reaching a determination, was not asked for?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** My honourable friend asked an identical question last week on several occasions and I will give him an identical answer. The police force conducts an independent investigation and draws its own conclusions. I do not tell them what questions to ask nor whom to talk to.

They drew their own conclusions—and I have told the member the conclusions—that there was no compromise of the justice system or that there was no influence brought to bear in the circumstances. Those are the conclusions, based on a factual analysis of the case. The member may have a different view of the facts, but that is the independent investigating officer's view of the facts.

**Mr Runciman:** I guess we would be interested in hearing the Premier's personal views with

respect to the objectivity and the ability of the OPP to really ascertain whether indeed a problem existed on the morning of 9 April, when, for reasons known best to them, apparently, they did not talk to the Solicitor General, did not indicate what she said on that evening or early morning and did not find out how the police responded to her.

I think we would all be interested, as members of this House, in knowing how the Premier can feel confident about the OPP conclusions, given the fact that he himself does not know what the Solicitor General said nor how the police responded. How can he feel confident that the Solicitor General did not act improperly on that morning?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Unlike my honourable friend, I have great faith in the independence, the judgement and the impartiality of the OPP in this matter. The member is standing in this House now and questioning their judgement. I do not question their judgement. I have great faith. They are not so weak-kneed that they would bend for some reason that was not proper in the circumstances. They came to an independent conclusion. Had they had a different view, they would have come to that view and shared it with the senior law officers of the crown.

So I say to my honourable friend that we have a difference of opinion. I respect their independence, their professionalism and their impartiality.

**Mr Runciman:** I suspect we in this party respect the OPP much more so than the government or it would not have put the OPP in that position.

I want to talk about the independence question. The Premier is talking about his confidence in the independence of the OPP and he is really basing his case on the fact that the OPP is capable in this situation of carrying out an independent investigation of its boss, the top law enforcement officer in the province.

Last week I called the inspector in charge of the investigation to talk to him about how the investigation was conducted. He would not talk to me. Half an hour later, who called my office? It was the Deputy Solicitor General's office. He talks about independence. I called the OPP investigator and who calls in return? It was the Deputy Solicitor General. That is not independence.

Is the Premier prepared to stand up on his feet today and indicate to the House and to the people of this province that he is going to take the OPP off the hook and have an independent investiga-

tion conducted so that all of us in this House and all of the people across this province can rest assured that indeed the Solicitor General was not carrying out some independent action on the morning of 9 April that, indeed, was improper for the top law enforcement officer of the province?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I have no idea who phoned my honourable friend, but the Deputy Solicitor General is not a politician. My friend may be aware of that. Number two, as far as I am concerned, we have had an independent look at this matter by people whose judgement I respect, and it is all there.

**Mr Kormos:** I have a question of the Premier. The Solicitor General's own version of these events seems to have meandered all over the place and the story seems to have changed from day to day to day. I will tell members how:

Back on 18 May, when she was questioned by the London Free Press, the Solicitor General told the London Free Press that she began making small talk about her friend's son once she got into the police station. After talking with Whalen Sr, she went into the police station and she began making small talk about her friend's son: "I stressed I was only there as a friend of the family."

Interestingly, notwithstanding that she was prepared to tell the London Free Press on 18 May that she engaged in small talk about the Whalen accused, who was in custody and about whom she impressed with the police that she was a friend of the family, in the Legislature last Thursday, 25 May, she said: "Actually, I discussed with them summer's advent and some casual things and left."

Those are two entirely different things. Conversation about the Whalen boy, the close friend of her family, and conversation about summer's advent are two very different things.

How can the Premier not disclose to this Legislature the contents of that report when we have these types of contradictions inherent in the minister's own statements?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** In great fairness to my honourable friend opposite, who I know is very interested in this case, there is no contradiction whatsoever.

**Mr Kormos:** Obviously, the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing. In view of the fact that the public is very concerned about these contradictory statements, the Premier does not appear to be overly concerned about them and the Premier does not appear to be overly concerned about the inappropriate behaviour of

his Solicitor General, why then will he not table the report?

If he wants to insist that the contents of the report deal with a criminal investigation of Whalen—and he knows that is not true—why does he not permit the report to be released, deleting the references to Whalen Jr, just so we can know with some certainty what indeed the Solicitor General did and said at the police station in Lucan at 1:30 in the morning?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** As I recall, and my honourable friend will correct me if I am wrong, the member stated in this House last week that he had talked to the investigating officer and that he had seen the report. If my facts are wrong, he can let me know on that matter.

So he is familiar with the facts. The facts are not particularly complicated. But as my honourable friend knows, police reports are not made public, as a matter of course—there has been only one exception to that—and particularly when there is a criminal trial proceeding standing now before the courts and it deals with facts relating to an accused. My honourable friend, I am sure, is aware of that as an esteemed, practising member of the bar.

1430

**Mr Sterling:** I would also like to ask the Premier a question. The Premier has stated as his defence that this young individual was charged, I believe, with disturbing the peace. Quite often, I understand that people are held for a short period of time and released. Is the Premier 100 per cent convinced that had the Solicitor General not involved herself, this individual still would have been charged with disturbing the peace, notwithstanding what happened on 9 April?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I am not prepared to engage in hypotheticals about who may or may not have been charged. But let me just say I have great faith in the police and their objective powers to make decisions based on the facts as they see them, commensurate with their duties. That is what I think they have done, and I respect their views.

**Mr Sterling:** One of the problems we have on this side is that we have not seen the report the Premier has seen with regard to this whole matter. Will the Premier not release those portions of the report which do not directly reflect on the criminal case? There must be a lot of the report which refers only to the actions of the Solicitor General. Will the Premier delete those particular parts and release the remaining part of the report?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I think, frankly, all the facts are known in this House at the present time. There is nothing terribly complicated about them. My honourable friend has said he has seen the report and talked to the investigating officers. It is not possible to do. We are not going to release a police report, but my honourable friend knows the facts.

#### MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**Mr Kozyra:** My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. The recent budget has caused concern in some areas as to its interpretation, especially as it relates to his ministry's budget. That concern is whether the Ministry of Natural Resources budget is sufficient to properly manage Ontario's resources. I wonder if the minister can inform and reassure the House of the government's commitment to increased funding for natural resources.

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** I think the question is an excellent one because I am sure there are members of the Legislature who should be made aware of the fact that our budget included extra money—

**Mr Laughren:** The only minister whose budget was cut.

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** If the member for Nickel Belt listens, he will learn something.

The extra money for forest firefighting is included in that budget. We have a base amount of money for forest firefighting and then each year, because we are not able to calculate what the added budget is going to be, we put an extra \$40 million into that forest firefighting budget, over the base.

In fact, the spending on regular programs last year was actually \$536 million. In addition to the \$570-million allocation for our regular programs in the 1989-90 budget, there is \$36 million in forestry funding from the Ministry of Treasury and Economics. This includes a \$15-million commitment representing Ontario's share of the Canada-Ontario forest resource development agreement, which the federal government has, up until this point in time, not matched.

The biggest single problem out there is that while our government is increasing the expenditures on forestry, the federal government has in fact cut back, even in the face of the Auditor General's suggesting that more money should be spent on forestry across Canada because of a past commitment that was actually not there.

We do have a serious sort of situation where we have a new minister who has a full ministry now, but Mr Wilson does not seem to be prepared

to fund him to do the things that need to be done in forestry. Our Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) has picked up the slack and has given me considerably more in my ministry to do the things we need to do to protect the forests of the future.

**Mr Kozyra:** The minister mentioned forest management and forest renewal, and that is a large part of his ministry's mandate and is, of course, of vital concern to northern Ontario. Will the minister please inform the House how this 1989 budget will affect forestry and forest renewal?

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** Well, his budget was cut.

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** That is not appropriate, because the budget has not been cut but definitely increased. Again, if the member will listen, we will give him the details.

The government's 1989-90 budgetary allocation of a total of \$230 million to maintain and renew Ontario's forests is an increase of 50 per cent over 1984-85. These new allocations certainly point out the commitment of this government to meet those requirements.

I of course will continue to pressure Ottawa to come up with its part of the program. But in the meantime I want to assure the people of this Legislature and of Ontario that we certainly are going to increase the budget of this ministry.

I want to tell the members also that there are \$18 million from the softwood lumber tax going into the budget and that with the new funding, tree seedling production will be maintained at a level of over 160 million trees planted in Ontario. Young forest stands which are already growing will be tended this year with additional money. We will be putting in a great deal more money than had been anticipated because of the will of this government to do what needs to be done in forestry.

Members should remember to tie that together with millions of dollars being put into the new—

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Reville:** My question is for the Solicitor General. We read in the column by Walkom about the Solicitor General's compassion: that she took in a foster child on two occasions; that she got a person out of a mental hospital and looked after him or her morally and financially for years. But the question of the member's compassion is not at issue. It is a question of her credibility as Solicitor General.

Does she not realize even yet that her actions on the morning of 9 April have irreparably damaged her credibility as Solicitor General?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I would agree that those parts of the column have no bearing on the case. The case is simple. I got a phone call in the middle of the night, the contents of which I have told you.

As I have reported, I went and spoke to the police officers and told them that this had nothing to do with wanting to interfere with justice, that they were to understand completely that I was there, because I had had this phone call, to inquire into the health of the young man and that I had no other interest in the case.

That is all I said, and I made sure that there were witnesses to my statement that I did not want to intervene in any way in the case itself.

**Mr Reville:** I think we have finally got to the nub of this matter. The Solicitor General says her compassion has no bearing on the case, but surely that is precisely what the problem is here. As a person who is used to being compassionate, she forgot that she was Solicitor General and, as Tom Walkom says, she forgot that she no longer enjoyed the luxury of being a compassionate mother and friend.

Does the Solicitor General not see that now?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** As I have answered many times, I went to inquire only about the wellbeing of the young man. I assured the police officers I had no interest in the case. I wished to do that in an honest and forthright way with witnesses, which is what I did.

**Mr Runciman:** Again, a question to the Premier about the Solicitor General's misconduct: Will the Premier consider directing, through the Secretary of Cabinet to the Deputy Solicitor General or to the commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police, to remove the gag order on the OPP to allow them to talk openly to members of the Legislature about the circumstances of the Solicitor General's visit to the Lucan station?

There is no reason for the gag order regarding the Solicitor General's visit because, according to the Premier, no crime was committed. Will he do that?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** There is no gag order anywhere to anyone, and I have read a number of people who have been quoted in this whole case.

**Mr Runciman:** I gave an example earlier that calls regarding this visit to the Lucan OPP station are being referred to the Deputy Solicitor General's office, which is tantamount to a gag order. Again, will the Premier ask for the gag order to be removed?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** There is no gag order, as much as my honourable friend would like to see conspiracies under every little rock. It just is not there.

1440

### HOURS OF WORK

**Ms Collins:** My question is for the Minister of Labour. I have recently received a petition signed by 78 workers at the Stelco Steel Hilton Works. As the minister knows, the Employment Standards Act stipulates the maximum number of overtime hours a worker may work in a year. In most cases that maximum is 100 hours. In other cases, however, certain designated employees such as receivers and shippers may work 624 overtime hours in a year. Can the minister explain to this House the reasoning behind this discrepancy?

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** It is a very good question. I know my friend the member for Wentworth East has been working very closely with workers at Stelco and other businesses on this whole question of overtime hours so I am glad that she has had an opportunity to raise it here, as have some of the other members in this House, notably the laughing member for Hamilton East (Mr Mackenzie). I do not think there is anything partisan about it, but he does not have an exclusive on it.

If I could give some sort of historical background to the differences: Historically, permits allowing 100 hours per year have been granted. The member is right: There are certain occupations where excess hours of some 12 per week are permitted, bringing the maximum to 60 hours. Those include engineering, firefighters, full-time maintenance people, receivers, shippers, delivery truck drivers and their helpers and watchmen.

I know that you want me to wrap up this part of the answer, Mr Speaker, but I would point out that this has been the case historically since 1945. It is right in the statute and as we review the statute, we are going to be looking at some of those occupations.

**Ms Collins:** Could the minister indicate whether he is considering a change to this section of the act in the upcoming employment standards review?

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** Indeed, we are doing that, and I think probably the experience that we have had in our investigations at Stelco will help us as we review the whole question of hours of work and overtime in our Employment Standards Act review.

Mr Speaker, you will know, because we tabled the documents in this House, that the Donner Task Force on Hours of Work and Overtime, commissioned by my predecessor, now the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr Wrye), did study this question extensively. A number of representatives from the business community and the labour community studied those and reported to the ministry and to this House.

We are now looking at the question and using that as evidence and as authority for the question, and certainly I will be able to report further to the member as that proceeds.

### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Kormos:** I have a question of the Premier. I should say that the Premier said once and he said twice that I read the report, that I was shown the report. If he says it a third time, it will be a deliberate falsehood because he knows that I was not permitted to read the report. He knows that I did not see it. He knows rather, as was explained in this Legislature last week, that excerpts of it were read to me and that I was given précis of the report.

The question with respect to the report is, what is the Premier trying to cover up? What is he afraid of? Why will he not let the public see the report with appropriate deletions—references to Whalen and whatever criminal investigation—and he knows that that is not the case? What is the coverup here? What is the Premier afraid of?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** My honourable friend, in the interests of keeping this sort of pot stirred, has asked the same question on many, many occasions. Is there a rule, Mr Speaker, about repetitive questions? Because if there is no rule about repetitive answers I will have to give my honourable friend the same answer. There is nothing there to cover up. It is all there for my friend to see.

**Mr Kormos:** When can I see it and when can the other members of this Legislative Assembly see it? When is the public going to be allowed to see what went on in those early-morning hours when the Solicitor General (Mrs Smith) was intervening on behalf of close family friends, strong supporters and long-time allies?

**The Deputy Speaker:** The question has been asked.

**Mr Kormos:** Is this a secret police that operates, that prepares reports—

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. The question has been asked.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Could you help me out, Mr Speaker? Was there a question and if so, sir, what was it? The answer is no, but I reserve my right to change my mind if I figure out what the question was.

**Mr Eves:** I have a question to the Solicitor General. I must preface my question by saying I would not find this necessary if the Premier would simply agree to release the report so all members of the House could read the facts for themselves. Otherwise, we are going to have to get the facts, I guess, from them one piece at a time.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The question is?

**Mr Eves:** Can the Solicitor General tell us how she got to the OPP station in Lucan on the night of 9 April? Specifically, did she drive herself to the station or did somebody else drive her?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I drove myself.

**Mr Eves:** Can the Solicitor General tell us whether she was in fact driving a government vehicle and whether she drove herself back home again or not?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** I was driving my own vehicle. I drove myself back home and did not speak to anybody else at that time.

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The member for Brampton South has got the floor.

#### ALTERNATIVE MEASURES FOR OFFENDERS

**Mr Callahan:** My question is for the Attorney General. The Attorney General will know that under the Young Offenders Act there is provision for alternative measures. Basically, a young person is entitled to admit his or her guilt, and if it is approved by the Attorney General or by the crown attorney, the charge can in fact be withdrawn upon the young person entering into some other alternative community service.

Considering the backlog of cases in courts, particularly in my riding, would the minister consider a similar or analogous type of alternative measure program for adults where, in the opinion of the crown attorney, the net result might be simply an absolute discharge, thereby saving the necessity of having a complete trial to deal with that particular issue?

**Hon Mr Scott:** I would like to thank the honourable member for the question. There has been some thought given in other jurisdictions and here to the possibility of a modified diversion program for adults, but to be frank, we have not

contemplated an alternative measures program for adults in Ontario. The justification for alternative measures is based very much on the youth and immaturity of the offender, and it does not seem to me that a program based on that assumption would be appropriate in the case of mature, adult offenders.

**Mr Callahan:** I would like to perhaps place this in more human terms for the Attorney General. An instance of a particular person who—

**Mr Philip:** If you are talking in human terms you are asking the wrong minister.

**Mr Callahan:** Do I have the floor, Mr Speaker?

**The Deputy Speaker:** Yes, you do, and please proceed.

**Mr Callahan:** The member for Etobicoke-Rexdale seems to think he has the floor for some reason.

I will give the Attorney General an example. It is fictitious, but in a sense it is real. I am not indicating the name of the person. In an instance where a young lady, married, no children, is involved with her husband in the business, has a child and then finds that she is no longer part of the business, the net result perhaps is that she goes out and, in order to attract attention to herself, commits a petty crime.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The question is?

**Mr Callahan:** In that particular situation, recognizing that the net result may very well be an absolute discharge, is it necessary that perhaps an entire day of trial might be used up, plus the fact it might result in section 16 of the Criminal Code applying in terms of its being pleaded by way of perhaps some form of insanity or some form of diminished responsibility—

**The Deputy Speaker:** The question has been asked.

1450

**Hon Mr Scott:** I thank the honourable member for his hypothetical but real example, as he put it. On the assumption it is not hypothetical or fictitious, I simply say this: It seems to me a good case is made out in that example for an absolute discharge, which is not the same as making out a good case for a diversion or alternative measures program. There is no reason why, with crown counsel and defence counsel under legal aid properly instructed, this should take a day at trial. If there is proper disclosure before the event by both crown and defence, it should take about five minutes to agree on

absolute discharge, which would then be ordered by the judge.

I think the example given by my friend does not point in the direction his question seeks to take us, but rather points to the wisdom of an absolute discharge.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Reville:** My question is for the Solicitor General. We now know the Solicitor General drove to the Lucan police station in her own car and drove back again. We assume she used her own telephone when she called up a couple of hours later. We know that on both occasions she asked only about the wellbeing of her young friend.

Does the Solicitor General not realize that if she had shown up and merely asked what time it was, or if she had merely said, "How about that Barfield?" it would have been a big occasion in the day of a Lucan police officer, and that as Solicitor General, arriving to ask a question of any kind has influence on those employees of hers?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** The member for Riverdale seems to have forgotten some of the facts, so I will repeat them and get him straightened out again. On the second occasion, I did not inquire after the wellbeing of Mr Whalen. I told them I had had a second call, wanted it on the record that I had had that call and that I had simply advised the young lady there was a process to follow and that I had no interest in the case.

**Mr Reville:** I am glad to have been disabused, that on the second occasion the Solicitor General's speech to the Lucan police station was that a complaint had been made and that she wanted that on the record. Does the Solicitor General not realize that calling the Lucan detachment and saying, "It is the Solicitor General calling and I want you to know a complaint has been listed about the behaviour of the police officers in that detachment," also has an influence on those very police officers?

**Hon Mrs Smith:** The police officer was asked to make a note on a piece of paper that I had had a call and nothing further.

**Mr Runciman:** My question is to the Premier, dealing with the 9 April events. The Premier is aware that the Solicitor General up to this point has not indicated any regret or remorse in respect to the incidents that occurred on that morning. In fact, she has indicated she may indeed do something comparable again in the future.

Up to this point, I do not believe the Premier has taken issue with that position. Does he believe what the Solicitor General did on that evening was improper conduct for a Solicitor General?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** We have discussed this on innumerable occasions and I have discussed my view of the situation. The question for me was whether this warranted dismissal or not. That was the question I had to wrestle with. I have shared my views with my honourable friend in that regard.

**Mr Runciman:** The Premier continues to avoid this issue and the message he is sending out, in respect to 130 members of this Legislature apparently, is that it is appropriate to do something comparable to what the Solicitor General did on 9 April.

Shortly after the 1981 election, a member of our caucus made a very innocent inquiry of a member of the judiciary and the Attorney General came down on our caucus very quickly and indicated that was inappropriate conduct. We had a standard to live by back then; apparently we do not now.

Is the Premier suggesting that the conduct of the Solicitor General on 9 April is appropriate for every member of this Legislature, all 130 of us, and that we can do something comparable and not look at problems from any jurisdiction, that this is okay activity?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I think we have discussed this at great length and we will continue to discuss it if my honourable friend so desires; it is not a problem as far as I am concerned. Obviously, my honourable friend made a judgement in response to a call in the middle of the night. Many people would feel that is inappropriate, and sure, I wish this whole thing had not happened. I do not get great joy out of this situation. The question is, was there any interference in the course of justice? Was there any perversion of the system? That is the question, and then what attends therefrom.

I think I have shared my views with my honourable friend on that matter, but I want my honourable friend to continue to try, even though there is nothing new that he is bringing up, to continue to badger. It is okay with me and I do not mind responding in the same way.

#### MINISTRY RELOCATION

**Mr Campbell:** My question is to the Minister of Correctional Services. A few weeks ago, I inquired of the Minister of Northern Development (Mr Fontaine) as to the status of the

relocation of his ministry to Sudbury. I am asking the Minister of Correctional Services if he could provide the members of the Legislature with a similar update of his ministry's main office relocation to the city of North Bay.

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** As a fellow northern member, I know of my friend's interest in the northern relocation program and I welcome the opportunity to update my colleagues in the House on the move we are embarking upon to North Bay.

As the members will recall, in 1987 the Premier (Mr Peterson) made the announcement that my ministry would be moving to North Bay. That will bring 300 positions to that city, with a payroll of about \$10 million annually.

The construction of a \$22-million facility is well under way. Due to strikes last summer and weather delays, we will not be moving into the new building till the spring of 1990. However, I decided in March that we would advance the move of 148 positions into temporary office space in North Bay six months earlier than intended so that the people of North Bay would see our presence there and so that our people who had expected to move would be working in the city.

**Mr Campbell:** I thank the minister for that update, because part of the government strategy of moving these jobs to northern Ontario is the impact on the employment situation in those communities in northern Ontario. Could the minister outline the employment opportunities for residents of northern Ontario with his ministry's relocation, specifically in North Bay?

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** The present number of people working in Toronto in our ministry who have stated their intentions to move to North Bay is 107. Thirty-three of those people are North Bay residents who are commuting or are temporarily relocated in Toronto in order to fill those positions.

As we move up there, we will be advertising in the local media and hiring as we go along, so there will be tremendous opportunity for North Bay and area residents to work with the Ministry of Correctional Services.

**The Deputy Speaker:** New question, the member for Welland-Thorold.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Kormos:** The Premier—  
Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Kormos:** It is incredible that I am trying to ask a question about a significantly important matter and Liberal backbenchers continue to cackle and carry on.

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Kormos:** The people of Ontario are vitally interested in this. The Premier tells us time and time again that he believes the Solicitor General (Mrs Smith) did nothing wrong, yet public perception is clearly that her presence, as Solicitor General, at the police station with a close family friend may have had—in the views of some people, must have had—some influence on the conduct of the police officers.

The Premier has a secret report. Why will he not disclose the contents of that secret report to the public? He could merely delete the references to other criminal conduct, unless he is afraid of the contents of that report. Is he afraid of the contents of that report? If not, he should show it to us.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** My honourable friend is obviously running out of new questions, because he has asked the same one on many occasions today and yesterday. I said it is not a secret report in the sense that somebody is trying to cover something up. It is a police report, and my honourable friend understands that. So I say to my honourable friend that my answer is the same now as it was when he asked me this a few days ago.

**Mr Kormos:** When will the Premier share his information, which is contained in that report, with the public? Is it not essential that he share the contents of that report with the public if people are going to believe him and if people are going to believe the Solicitor General, because people do not believe them now?

1500

**Hon Mr Peterson:** My honourable friend has drawn his own conclusions about what people believe and do not believe. He is entitled to his view on that subject, but I say to him that an independent investigation was held and the views are as I shared with him in this House, so I think my honourable friend will want to be careful about drawing conclusions about what everybody believes or does not believe.

**Mr Runciman:** Again, my question is to the Premier dealing with the Smith matter. Earlier, he indicated he does not believe there is a gag order in place with respect to the Ontario

Provincial Police despite the experience I had last week.

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. Please proceed.

**Mr Runciman:** My staff just contacted both Sergeant Foley of the Lucan OPP and Superintendent Bob Guay of the OPP and both said they cannot answer questions on the Smith case. Would the Premier not suggest this is indeed a gag order? The police cannot even respond to questions from members of the staff of the Legislature.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** There is a very interesting irony here. The whole line of questioning has been about discussing things with the OPP. Now my honourable friend wants to talk to the OPP, for whatever reason that is, but I think he would be somewhat reticent in doing so because he would not want to be perceived to influence the course of justice. Let me tell the member that I do not tell the OPP who to talk to or what to say in any circumstances, nor will I.

**Mr Runciman:** That analogy will not wash with anybody. I do not know who the Premier thinks he is kidding. We are talking about trying to get to the bottom of the activities of the Solicitor General on the morning of 9 April, and this Premier, his minister and his government are stonewalling on this.

They will not give us appropriate answers in this House. Will the Premier, through his commissioner of the OPP, through his principal secretary, indicate that full answers are to be provided to members of this Legislature with respect to this matter? He has indicated there was no question of a crime being committed. Will he not open up and make the investigation available to members of the Legislature?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** The member can ask any question he would like in this House. We are very happy to respond in a forthright, open and fulsome way, as we have done. The member has asked the same question innumerable times and we have responded to the best of our ability.

Certain people have talked to the OPP, and I have no problem with their talking, whatever is appropriate in the circumstances, because they make their own decisions in that regard. My honourable friend keeps talking about tabling the report. He knows better in spite of the fact that he is not a solicitor or a lawyer. Police reports are not made public.

My honourable friend would like to read something into this, as is his wont. We have

discussed his nature before in this House, but let me say the Attorney General (Mr Scott) and law officers of the crown say that police reports are not made public.

**Mr Harris:** Why was it appropriate to table the Keyes report?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** There was one exception, which I discussed with the member, but I can tell him that when the name of an accused is discussed, as it is in this case, and that matter is before the courts, it is not appropriate to jeopardize someone else's reputation or criminal trial. I think my honourable friend understands that—

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** This is an investigation of your Solicitor General.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** —in spite of the fact my honourable friend opposite does not.

#### LAND REGISTRATION

**Mr Callahan:** The legal profession in my community—

**The Deputy Speaker:** To whom is your question?

**Mr Callahan:** To the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Because of the very rapid growth and transfer of real estate, the legal community in my riding, and for that matter the ridings of about four other members, is having difficulties at the registry office in Brampton.

One of the matters that might be of assistance to them would be a pilot project—I am not suggesting that this should be commenced in Peel, but I am wondering if the minister would consider, as a pilot project, the incorporation of a lending institution or a branch thereof in one of the registry offices in Ontario in order to allow or facilitate the transfer of funds or the certification of cheques.

I can tell members that on a number of occasions there have been transactions that have been delayed, perhaps even those that have been frustrated, because of the difficulty in attempting to have these funds placed in a suitable certification for closing.

**Hon Mr Wrye:** The honourable member, as he so often does, makes a useful and interesting suggestion. I can share with him and with the House that one of the things we have been doing with the registry offices and land titles offices is beginning to see what additional matters can be placed in those offices. Often other parts and branches of my own ministry can facilitate the business community and the public in general in carrying on their business.

The honourable member now suggests that in addition to some of the tie-ins we have traditionally had, which is registry offices to the court facilities, and we have tried to do that where possible, we should look for a new tie-in; that is, registry offices to financial institutions.

I can say to the honourable member that in some cases, and he is certainly sensitive to his own community, the offices are already crowded and in some cases quite overcrowded, but I am willing to take a careful look at the honourable member's suggestion and perhaps try it in a registry office where space is not so much an issue, and to explore the issue with my own officials and those of lending institutions.

**Mr Callahan:** The problem is exacerbated as well by reason of the fact that the money collected is significant in terms of its being land transfer tax, registration fees and so on, so much so that it requires the attendance of a Brinks truck, or whatever the equivalent of Brinks is, to transfer the funds from the registry office to the appropriate financial institution.

By way of supplementary, I ask the minister, in considering the pilot project or its implementation, to take that into consideration, along with the fact that it becomes very difficult for the staff at the various registry offices to provide sufficient coinage to allow the individuals who are searching in the registry offices to conduct their searches in an effective way.

**Hon Mr Wrye:** I know this is an area of business that my colleague and friend has a great deal of knowledge of, and I take his suggestion and proposals quite seriously. I can say to the honourable member that certainly in this day and age, we are at a time where the linkages between land registry and land titles offices and financial institutions ought to be perhaps a little more sophisticated than those we found in days gone by. Even without the growth we have experienced in Ontario, the growth in the volume of business has been really quite dramatic. Some of our traditional linkages may be proving, as we enter the decade of the 1990s, to be insufficient.

I can say to the honourable member that we will take a very careful look at that matter and I will report back to him directly.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Reville:** The Attorney General has been clucking and pecking like a chicken—

**The Deputy Speaker:** Your question is to the Attorney General?

**Mr Reville:**—in his anxiety to get on in this, so my question is to the Attorney General. To give him an opportunity to speak out legitimately this afternoon, would he give this House his advice on how a report touching on the actions of the Solicitor General (Mrs Smith) could be tabled in this House without touching on the matters that are before the courts?

**Hon Mr Scott:** As the honourable member knows, I cannot give advice to private citizens.

**Mr Reville:** I regret that I waited all afternoon to discover that I was after all not the member for Riverdale but a private citizen. Seriously, as the legal adviser to everybody over there, the Attorney General must have had a lot of earnest conversations about this very popular report.

Is there not a way to delete those references to the person who is before the courts and make sure the rest of the information can be available to us all?

**Hon Mr Scott:** As the honourable member knows—I did not intend the first answer to be facetious—there is a long history of how parliamentary governments deal with police reports. That history, both in the United Kingdom and Canada, and indeed even in the United States although its constitution is a little different, makes it perfectly plain that you do not ever release a police report without the consent of all the persons who are mentioned in it, for the following reasons—

**Mr Breagh:** Not ever?

1510

**Hon Mr Scott:** Except with the consent all persons mentioned in it. And one does not, because if it does not produce a criminal charge, then a very grave injustice may be done to any number of people mentioned in it, as police reports are often composed of material that cannot be demonstrated.

On the other hand, if there is a criminal charge, as there is in this case, in this instance there is a very real risk that the release of a police report will cause a mistrial.

#### PETITIONS

##### PROPOSED PULP MILL

**Mr Kozyra:** I have a petition that is in general for the Lieutenant Governor but more specifically, to the Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley). It is regarding the proposed bleached chemi-thermal-mechanical pulp mill in the former Thunder Bay MacMillan Bloedel site. It consists of over 20,000 signatures. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We, the residents in the district of Thunder Bay, oppose any project that impacts negatively in any way on air quality, water quality, recreational quality, or lifestyle safety of the Kaministiquia River, Lake Superior or its watershed.

"Therefore, an environmental assessment hearing must be undertaken prior to any commencement of construction in the municipality of Paipoonge."

I have signed my name to the petition.

#### HOME CARE

**Mrs Fawcett:** I have a petition today from 94 constituents from the Cobourg area.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We support the expansion of home care and visiting nurses services as the most cost-efficient mode of health care delivery. We therefore want our government to adequately fund the Victorian Order of Nurses."

#### NATUROPATHY

**Ms Bryden:** I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It is on the subject of the profession of naturopathy and has been signed by 20 people, mainly from my constituency, Beaches-Woodbine. It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice."

I have signed this petition.

#### HOURS OF WORK

**Ms Collins:** I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to present a petition:

"The following employees feel that part IV, clause 20(1)(a) and clause 20(1)(b) of the Employment Standards Act directly interfere with their rights as Canadians under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and request very strongly that this section be removed from the Ontario Employment Standards Act."

I have signed this petition.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Miss Martel:** I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government to scrap Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act,

"Because Bill 162 contains the most significant changes to the Ontario system of workers' compensation contemplated for many years and yet, as was confirmed through the public hearings on the bill, was developed without an adequate process of public consultation with the stakeholders; and

"Because Bill 162 represents an attack on injured workers and their families and all of those people who have fought over the years to achieve fairness and justice for injured workers and their families; and

"Because Bill 162 will eliminate the current lifetime pension for lifetime disability and replace it with a dual award system, combining lump sum and wage-loss awards, that has been rejected by injured workers, their advocacy groups, community legal workers and lawyers working on their behalf and by the trade union movement since it was first proposed for implementation in Ontario by the 1980 Weiler report and the Conservative government's 1981 white paper; and

"Because Bill 162 virtually ignores the devastating critique and recommendations of the Majesky-Minna task force report on vocational rehabilitation that was submitted to the Minister of Labour and suppressed by the Liberal government until April 1988; and

"Because Bill 162 gives legislative form to the unacceptable and reactionary policy of restricting access to supplement awards announced by the Workers' Compensation Board in 1987; and

"Because, throughout Bill 162, injured workers are made more subject to increased discretionary power at the hands of the Workers'

Compensation Board and made subject to ever more intrusive and demeaning assaults on their dignity, their privacy and their right to fair and just treatment."

This was signed by four members of the Victims of Mining Environment in Timmins, commonly known as the gold miners' wives. I agree with them entirely and I have put my signature to it as well.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I want to thank the member for writing a précis of the petition.

### HOME CARE

**Mr Carrothers:** I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas we support the expansion of home care and visiting nurses services as the most cost-effective mode of health care delivery, and whereas the Victorian Order of Nurses will incur a further deficit of \$3 million provincially in the 1989-90 fiscal year, if the government of Ontario fails to fulfil its promise to adequately fund home care services and, therefore, the VON may be forced to alter their home care services, we petition the Minister of Health to revise the funding formula for 1989-90 so that a secure funding base be established to reflect the increasingly complex care needs in the community case load, and to provide adequate compensation for the service providers working in the community setting, so that citizens of Ontario are not forced to seek more expensive health care in an institutional setting."

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

Mr Cureatz moved first reading of Bill 29, An Act to amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr Cureatz:** This amendment to the act will add a provision permitting a refund of pension contributions to be made to the personal representative of a deceased contributor where the spouse or child of the contributor cannot be found. The provision authorizes the Teachers' Superannuation Commission to make such a refund if it is satisfied that reasonable inquiries have been made to find the spouse or child and more than one year has passed since the death of the contributor. The provision is similar to

section 37 of the Public Service Superannuation Act.

#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

Mr Runciman moved first reading of a bill entitled An Act to amend the Executive Council Act.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Call in the members.

1520

Wednesday, 31 May 1989

1618

The House divided on Mr Runciman's motion, which was negatived on the following vote:

#### Ayes

Allen, Brandt, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cousens, Cunningham, Eves, Farnan, Grier, Hampton, Harris, Johnson, J. M., Johnston, R. F., Kormos, Laughren, Mackenzie, McCague, McLean, Morin-Strom, Philip, E., Pollock, Pouliot, Rae, B., Reville, Runciman, Sterling, Villeneuve, Wildman, Wiseman.

#### Nays

Ballinger, Beer, Bossy, Campbell, Caplan, Cleary, Collins, Conway, Curling, Daigeler, Eakins, Epp, Faubert, Fawcett, Fleet, Fontaine, Grandmaître, Kanter, Kerrio, Kozyra, Kwinter, Lipsett, Mancini, McGuigan, McLeod, Miller, Morin, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Nixon, R. F., Oddie Munro, Phillips, G., Polsinelli, Poole, Ray, M. C., Reycraft, Riddell, Roberts, Smith, D. W., Sola, Sorbara, Stoner, Sullivan, Tatham, Velshi, Ward, Wilson, Wong, Wrye.

Ayes 31; nays 49.

**Mr Harris:** Mr Speaker, I would ask unanimous consent of the House to place a motion.

**The Speaker:** The request from the member for Nipissing is for unanimous consent to place a motion. Is there unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr Harris moved that this sitting be extended to permit the Treasurer to move at this time government notice of motion 4 standing in his name on the Orders and Notices paper and that

debate on the motion for interim supply conclude after each party has had up to five minutes to speak, at which time the Speaker shall put the question forthwith.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon Mr Conway:** I suppose, to be proper about this, we should revert to motions, so I would seek consent that we now revert to motions so the honourable Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) can do as the motion of the member for Nipissing suggests he do.

Agreed to.

**The Speaker:** It has been agreed that the Treasurer may proceed with the government notice of motion.

## MOTION

### INTERIM SUPPLY

Hon R. F. Nixon moved that the Treasurer of Ontario be authorized to pay the salaries of the civil servants and other necessary payments pending the voting of supply for the period commencing 1 June 1989 and ending 31 July 1989, such payments to be charged to the proper appropriation following the voting of supply.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Taking notice of the original motion that limits our discussion to five minutes on each side, I simply bring to the attention of the honourable members that this interim supply will involve the expenditure of an estimated \$5.6 billion during June and July.

Since there was some concern about the timing of interim supply, it is a good occasion for me to say that although it is 31 May, the day before the beginning of the interim supply period, it still is a substantial inconvenience which is explained in the following way.

Some years ago, when our accounting was done with quill pens and cheques signed directly by the Treasurer, we could handle interim supply approved at the end of the month for the next following month. Now that we do it with all modern technology, it takes quite a bit longer.

For that reason, the computerized tapes giving the specific approvals for various sums, with the allocations, have to be made available to our financial agents and the banks usually two or three days before the end of the month so that the proper dispensation of the funds across the province takes place.

I have tried to convince my colleague the House leader of that, and I know he does his best to schedule interim supply so that the officials in Treasury do not have that slight increase in blood pressure as we get close to the end of the month. I

can assure you, Mr Speaker, that they will be very glad indeed that the opposition members, recognizing their democratic duty, have returned to the Legislature in order to approve this important expenditure at this time.

Frankly, I appreciate the fact that these expenditures have been approved. They are routine, of course, but they amount on average to about \$100 million a day. Fortunately, with the recent budget provisions, we will be able to handle that quite usefully and in the responsible way that the taxpayers have grown accustomed to in the last four years.

**Mr Laughren:** I am pleased to engage in this debate on the interim supply motion, although I must say that I and my colleagues will vote in favour of the motion not because of the performance of this government in recent days, weeks and months, and indeed since 1985, but because there is a growing awareness in Ontario that a dry rot is setting in.

Interjections.

**Mr Laughren:** The government members can heckle all they like—they have the numbers so they can drown out any opposition member who wants to speak; I understand that—but those of us who have been here a while understand how well the old Tory machine was able to use patronage to entrench itself. It was fine-tuned over 42 years. This government in four years has done as much to undermine the process as that government did in 42 years. In four years, this government has undermined not only the credibility of itself but also people's respect for the process in the province of Ontario. That is more serious than the damage they are doing to themselves.

The latest fiasco, the Joan Smith affair—who, I might add, is not here for some strange reason—is in itself an important symbol of what has gone wrong with this government. The fact that the Solicitor General (Mrs Smith) herself has not understood that ministerial responsibility demands that she resign is more important than the act in which she engaged late that night.

We have seen examples when ministers did not seem to understand that they were responsible for the people who reported to them, even though that is a long tradition that has been honoured in parliamentary democracies. Not only does this government not seem to understand that vis-à-vis the Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley), but it does not seem to understand that when the ministers themselves get involved in a contradiction of their responsi-

bilities then they should have to resign. It has become ridiculous.

The contradictions in the story of the Solicitor General are truly amazing. The fact that the Solicitor General, the chief police person in the province of Ontario, would go down to the police station in the middle of the night and make an appearance on behalf of the son of a friend in itself shows a judgement that the Premier (Mr Peterson) should have recognized as a terminal judgement. The fact that the minister did not seem to understand she should resign and that the Premier should demand her resignation and accept it when it was offered speaks volumes about the integrity of this government.

1630

There was a story in the *Globe and Mail* this morning which talked about another problem. That problem is that, for example, an Ontario cabinet minister received a \$5,000 payment for a housing survey from a charitable foundation and also that there are others who received payments from the same charitable foundation, namely, Elvio DelZotto, president of the Ontario wing of the federal Liberal Party of Canada, and Willowdale Liberal MP James Peterson, brother of the Premier.

This government must understand the damage it is doing to the credibility of the political process and that by doing so it undermines the credibility of all of us in this province, not just the government members but all politicians in the province of Ontario.

It is absolutely ridiculous that the Solicitor General did not have the sensitivity and the judgement to understand that, following the incident at the police station in Lucan, she should have submitted her resignation to the Premier, and the Premier forthwith should have accepted that resignation. Then we would have been voting not just interim supply for the public servants of the province of Ontario but perhaps even an acknowledgement that government was governing properly; but in this case, it certainly is not.

**Mr Brandt:** I want to indicate that my party as well will support the motion for interim supply. We do so out of a sense of responsibility to very clearly indicate that we are not attempting in any way to be obstructionist or to hold up the business of the government.

We want to make it very clear to this government that over the course of the past few days there have been a number of situations related to the incident that occurred in the town of Lucan, north of London, that are deeply upset-

ting to our party and to all members of the opposition and I think, if looked at very carefully and in a very objective way by the members of the government party as well, should be upsetting to them.

The issue is really one of the integrity of this government. It is really one of very clearly demonstrating to the people of this province that when a person accepts the responsibility of being sworn in as a member of cabinet, it is absolutely, totally and completely impossible for that person to then act as an ordinary citizen on one occasion and as a cabinet minister on another occasion.

When the Solicitor General took it upon herself to travel to Lucan to intercede, as she did on that particular occasion, as the Solicitor General—because she can be nothing other than that—I say to my friends that is the influence of government used in an extremely inappropriate way. That is what concerns us on this side of the House.

There have been standards established over many years. The protocol with respect to how a cabinet minister must conduct himself or herself is very clearly understood. It means that in a situation such as occurred with our former colleague George Kerr, on a matter of principle and a matter of honour, you have no choice but to resign at that particular time if you have in fact conducted yourself in an inappropriate manner.

Those standards were established by George Kerr and many other cabinet ministers who, innocently perhaps, having made contacts that after the fact became well known as being inappropriate, did the honourable thing. The honourable thing was to resign at that particular time.

My concern, and what should concern the members of the government, is that the standards they are establishing with respect to contacts by cabinet ministers to various individuals throughout society have now been lowered very substantially. That is unacceptable to the members of my party and, I believe, to all members of the opposition, as it should be to the government party as well.

The Premier has indicated in the case of the Lucan incident that he personally has reviewed the police report. He has also said that all of the facts are there for people to see. The facts are not there, I say with the greatest of respect to the members of the government, because they have stonewalled that particular report. They have not made it available in any form whatever to the members of the opposition to determine whether in fact, in their eyes, there was any overt

interference on the part of the Solicitor General or not.

It is one thing for the Premier of this province to say "I have seen it." It is still another thing for the members of the opposition to have an opportunity to peruse that document and to determine in their minds whether in fact that matter was handled appropriately and in a manner that would be acceptable to the members of this House.

For the Premier to constantly stonewall, to constantly hide behind a report which he refuses to release, and indicate that the facts are there for all to see really stretches his credulity to the extreme degree. Our party very frankly says to the members of the government that the Solicitor General has a direct obligation, a direct responsibility, to come completely clean on this issue. The only way that can be done, in our view, is with the complete release of that report.

I say by way of closing, since my time has just about come up—

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Hear, hear.

**Mr Brandt:** I thank the Treasurer. We are here, after days of ringing these bells, in order to provide him with interim supply because we do feel we have a responsibility. But the government has a responsibility to conduct itself at a high level that is beyond the question of the people of this province with respect to the integrity of the government. That it has failed to do, and that will be with the government for some long time to come.

Motion agreed to.

#### PREMIER'S COMMENTS

**Mr Kormos:** Mr Speaker, may I rise on a point of personal privilege?

**The Speaker:** Personal privilege? We do not really have—

Interjection.

**The Speaker:** A point of privilege or a point of order?

**Mr Kormos:** A point of privilege, please. Last Thursday the Premier (Mr Peterson) deliberately misled me and he deliberately misled this House. Let me explain. In replying to a question from me—

**Some hon members:** Goodbye.

**The Speaker:** Order. I know it is—

**Mr Faubert:** Get him the standing orders and let him read them.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. I am sure all members are aware of many of the standing orders. Of course, one of them is that a member cannot accuse another member of deliberately uttering a falsehood. I know that all members are tired, and I am sure that the member would want to use some other language than that. Would you use some other—

**Mr Kormos:** Mr Speaker, the Premier lied to the House.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. Will the member withdraw?

**Mr Kormos:** I am sorry, Mr Speaker; I will explain, but I cannot withdraw.

**The Speaker:** I have no other choice but to name the member.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** Mr Speaker, on a point of order: I have no choice but to challenge your ruling—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** We are not going to have a member thrown out who tells the truth in this House.

**The Speaker:** Order. I have asked the member to withdraw. Will the member withdraw?

**Mr Kormos:** Mr Speaker, I can explain my comments; I cannot withdraw them.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. I have no choice but to name the member.

Mr Kormos left the chamber.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** Mr Speaker, on a point of order—

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** There is no point of order.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** If the Treasurer wants to be Speaker, he should apply for the job.

**The Speaker:** Order. With respect, I know many members have read the standing orders. I asked the member to withdraw and he said he would not withdraw. I named the member and the member has withdrawn for the balance of the day. It is as simple as that.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** Mr Speaker, you made a ruling on a particular word that was used in the Legislature. There is ample opportunity and has been in the past. I do not agree with your ruling, and I challenge your ruling in naming the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr Kormos).

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order, please. I asked the table to check if there are any precedents for me to make a decision. I am advised that there is a precedent in this House where such a ruling has been challenged and voted on in the past. Do I understand that the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr D. S. Cooke) still wants that challenge to stand?

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** Yes, Mr Speaker. It is with a great deal of regret that I have to challenge your ruling.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Somebody should call you a hypocrite, but that's not permitted.

**Mr Mackenzie:** You usually do find a way. Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. The Speaker's ruling has been challenged. Therefore, I will put the question to the House, shall the Speaker's ruling be sustained?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Call in the members.

1643

**Thursday, 1 June 1989**

1832

**The Speaker:** If all members will pay attention, I have been advised by representatives of all three parties in the House that a vote will not take place before at least 9 am tomorrow.

I am therefore suspending the sitting, and the bells are deemed to be ringing until the sitting is resumed at 9 am, Friday, 2 June 1989.

The Speaker suspended proceedings at 1833.

**Friday, 2 June 1989**

1230

**The Speaker:** It has become evident to me that a division will not be taken before nine o'clock next Monday morning.

I am therefore suspending the sitting, and the bells are deemed to be ringing until the sitting is resumed at 9 am, Monday, 5 June 1989.

The Speaker suspended proceedings at 1231.

**Monday, 5 June 1989**

1800

**The Speaker:** It is evident to me that a division will not take place before 9 am tomorrow.

I am therefore suspending the sitting, and the bells are deemed to be ringing until the sitting is resumed at 9 am, Tuesday, 6 June 1989.

The Speaker suspended proceedings at 1800.

**Tuesday, 6 June 1989**

1313

The House divided on the Speaker's ruling, which was sustained on the following vote:

**Ayes**

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bossy, Brandt, Brown, Callahan, Campbell, Carrothers, Chiarelli, Cleary, Collins, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cordiano, Cunningham, Daigneler, Dietsch, Eakins, Elston, Eves, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fleet, Fontaine, Grandmaitre, Haggerty, Harris, Hart, Hošek, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Kanter, Kerrio, Keyes, Kozyra, Kwinter, LeBourdais, Lipsett, Lupusella,

Mahoney, Marland, McGuigan, McLean, McLeod, Miclash, Miller, Morin, Neumann, Nixon, J. B., Nixon, R. F., Oddie Munro, Offer, O'Neill, Y., Owen, Patten, Pelissero, Phillips, G., Pollock, Polsinelli, Poole, Ramsay, Ray, M. C., Reycraft, Riddell, Roberts, Smith, D. W., Sola, Sorbara, South, Sterling, Sullivan, Sweeney, Velshi, Villeneuve, Ward, Wilson, Wiseman, Wrye.

**Nays**

Allen, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Farnan, Grier, Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Mackenzie, Martel, Morin-Strom, Pouliot, Reville, Wildman.

Ayes 80; nays 14.

**The Speaker:** That completes the business of the House for 29 May 1989.

The House adjourned at 1317.

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS\*

(130 seats)

Second Session, 34th Parliament

**Lieutenant Governor: Hon Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC**

- 
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)  
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)  
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)  
 Beer, Charles (York North L)  
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)  
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)  
**Bradley, Hon James J.**, Minister of the Environment (St Catharines L)  
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)  
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)  
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)  
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)  
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)  
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)  
**Caplan, Hon Elinor**, Minister of Health (Oriole L)  
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)  
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)  
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)  
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)  
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)  
**Conway, Hon Sean G.**, Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)  
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)  
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)  
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)  
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)  
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)  
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)  
**Curling, Hon Alvin**, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)  
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)  
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St Catharines-Brock L)  
**Eakins, Hon John F.**, Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)  
**Edighoffer, Hon Hugh A.**, Speaker (Perth L)  
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)  
**Elston, Hon Murray J.**, Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Financial Institutions (Bruce L)  
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)  
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)  
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)  
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)  
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)  
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)  
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)  
**Fontaine, Hon René**, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)  
**Fulton, Hon Ed**, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)  
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)  
**Grandmaître, Hon Bernard C.**, Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)  
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)  
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)  
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)  
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)  
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)  
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)  
**Hošek, Hon Chaviva**, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)  
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)  
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)  
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)  
 Kanter, Ron (St Andrew-St Patrick L)  
**Kerrio, Hon Vincent G.**, Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)  
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)  
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)  
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)  
**Kwinter, Hon Monte**, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)  
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)  
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)  
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)  
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)  
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)  
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)  
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)  
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)  
**Mancini, Hon Remo**, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)  
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)  
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)  
 Matrondola, Gino (Willowdale L)  
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)  
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)  
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)  
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)  
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)  
**McLeod, Hon Lyn**, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)  
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)

Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)  
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)  
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste Marie NDP)  
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)  
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)  
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)  
**Nixon, Hon Robert F.**, Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Brant-Haldimand L)  
**Oddie Munro, Hon Lily**, Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)  
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)  
**O'Neil, Hon Hugh P.**, Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)  
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)  
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)  
**Patten, Hon Richard**, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)  
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)  
**Peterson, Hon David R.**, Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)  
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)  
**Phillips, Hon Gerry**, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)  
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)  
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)  
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)  
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)  
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)  
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)  
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)  
**Ramsay, Hon David**, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)  
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-Walkerville L)  
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)  
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

**Riddell, Hon Jack**, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)  
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)  
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)  
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)  
**Scott, Hon Ian G.**, Attorney General (St George-St David L)  
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)  
**Smith, Hon E. Joan**, Solicitor General (London South L)  
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)  
**Sorbara, Hon Gregory S.**, Minister of Labour (York Centre L)  
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)  
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)  
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)  
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)  
**Sweeney, Hon John**, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)  
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)  
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)  
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)  
**Ward, Hon Christopher C.**, Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)  
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)  
**Wilson, Hon Mavis**, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)  
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)  
**Wong, Hon Robert C.**, Minister of Energy (Fort York L)  
**Wrye, Hon William**, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

\*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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Publications

No. 20

# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario



**Second Session, 34th Parliament**  
Tuesday, 6 June 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario  
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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, 6 June 1989

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### NATIONAL ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK

**Mr Allen:** This is National Access Awareness Week, yet inadequate funding, gaps in service and long waiting lists for community services deny access for thousands of disabled people.

In group homes and independent living services, for example, there are over 200 on a waiting list in Hamilton, where disabled and handicapped people can languish on waiting lists for as long as eight years. In vocational rehabilitation services, which are understaffed, there are people waiting six, nine or 12 months in various offices in Toronto for assessment for a placement, only to have to go on another waiting list for the service. Access delayed is access denied.

**Education:** Jaclyn Rowett is still denied access to her neighbourhood school after five years of fighting by her family. The Thompson family has fought for years to have equal access to education for their gifted sons with learning disabilities and their case is still before the courts and the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

**Employment:** Some 70 per cent of disabled Canadians are unemployed and the only action this government has taken on employment equity is to change the minister responsible. Project Opportunity, to train the developmentally handicapped in the workplace as an alternative to sheltered workshops, obviously requires some boldness and good support systems, both lacking in this government.

**Transportation:** The Ministry of Transportation held up proclamation of reasonable accommodation in the Human Rights Code for two years, but all we get are a few accessible taxis and more studies.

In National Access Awareness Week, we hear the government proclaim anew its commitment to the disabled, but will it act? The record is not encouraging.

### SENIOR CITIZENS MONTH

**Mrs Cunningham:** During the month of June, the citizens of Ontario are celebrating the

contributions of our many senior citizens. Many are healthy and energetic, but sadly many are not. They are not independent and they must rely on our support.

In light of the fact that it is Senior Citizens Month, I would like to bring to the attention of the House another case of government mismanagement. A New Agenda was released on 2 June 1986 by Mr Ron Van Horne. The primary objective of this white paper, and I quote, "is to outline a series of broad policy directions, which would, in the view of the government, lead to a more effective and affordable system of health and social services for the elderly."

The Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan) has stated in the House that she is committed to meeting the needs of Ontario seniors and is committed to developing the strategies outlined in A New Agenda. The budget last year was \$9.3 million and this year it is \$9.4 million. Only 16 of the promised 38 integrated homemaker sites are realities.

Where is the extended-care legislation? Where are the rest home standards? The minister promised an integrated one-stop shopping approach. Her list of broken promises is endless. Her new agenda is clearly an old agenda, and many seniors are anxiously awaiting government programming to help them live their retirement years in dignity.

### TOURETTE SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

**Mr Neumann:** The month of June is Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month in Canada. Tourette syndrome is characterized by multiple involuntary muscular movements or tics, uncontrollable vocal sounds and utterances and, in some cases, inappropriate words.

Can you imagine what it must be like to live with this condition when you and those around you do not know what it is that you have? Early diagnosis and improved understanding can make a world of difference for families who have to deal with Tourette syndrome every day. In many instances, publicity has helped families to achieve awareness. Diagnosis and treatment followed. What a difference this new understanding has made in their lives.

Children and adults with these problems need special understanding, care and love. Some may require special medical attention. Fortunately, however, this lifelong condition does not affect either intelligence or longevity, and the majority of people with Tourette syndrome try to lead relatively normal, active lives.

The Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada is a voluntary, nonprofit organization, composed of individuals affected by the syndrome, their families, friends, professionals and other interested people. Its efforts for more research and improved public understanding provide hope for the future, as symbolized in its "one green leaf of hope."

#### ENVIRONMENT WEEK

**Mrs Grier:** This is Environment Week—a good time to take stock of how the government is doing. Unfortunately for all of us, the answer has to be that the government has stalled in mid-term. The reality does not match the rhetoric. The performance does not live up to the public relations campaign.

Do members remember the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement, the water-pollution control program that was going to solve all our problems? MISA is now two to three years behind schedule, with no emission reduction standards in place.

It is 18 months since the minister described the regulation dealing with air pollution as outdated. It is even more outdated now, and not even a draft replacement regulation has been seen.

Countdown Acid Rain will be a good program in 1994, when it takes effect. We all have blue boxes. We also have leaky landfills, long-drawn-out battles to find new sites and municipalities facing ever increasing costs to dispose of garbage.

What we do not have are concrete proposals to reduce garbage at source, to regulate packaging to force industries to use recycled materials. We have an Environmental Assessment Act, which is in grave danger of being undermined and weakened as the Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley) grants exemptions and invents ways of getting around requests for full environmental assessment.

The people of Ontario want a sustainable society. This government states it supports the concept and the need to integrate economic and environmental decision-making. What this government lacks is a coherent, long-term vision for either the environment or the economy. Without that vision—

**The Speaker:** The member's time has expired.

#### ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**Mrs Marland:** The integrity and the maintenance of the public confidence in the Ontario Human Rights Commission are matters of vital concern to this Legislature. The resignation of Raj Anand as chief commissioner last Friday makes it imperative that review of the operations of the OHRC by the standing committee on government agencies proceed as a priority matter.

In my opinion, a complete review by this House is required to restore public confidence in the Human Rights Commission and to re-establish the commission's ability to play a lead role in our efforts to combat every form of discrimination. In all fairness to the next chief commissioner, it is incumbent on this House to act now to address problems at the commission to ensure that Mr Anand's successor has a firm foundation on which to build. It is one of the most important government agencies.

1340

With regard to the appointment of the next chief commissioner, I suggest that the government give this House the opportunity to participate in the selection process by allowing the standing committee on government agencies to make recommendations regarding the search and selection process, the qualifications required for the position, and to review candidates for the position. The Legislature's endorsement of the appointment would dispel any questions about partisanship and favouritism, and allow the new commissioner to take on this challenging position knowing he enjoyed the support of all members of the assembly.

#### BROTHERHOOD NIGHT IN PETERBOROUGH

**Mr Adams:** I attended the 16th annual Brotherhood Night in Peterborough. This is an event initiated by the Knights of Columbus, which involves all Masonic lodges and service clubs in our community. This year, the Kawartha Shrine Club was cosponsor.

This is an event which for more than a decade has brought together people from different religious, social and business backgrounds. For one evening, diverse elements of the community get together to share experiences and get to know each other. The influence of this single evening extends throughout the year and is felt in our

streets and in our homes through an increased tolerance and mutual respect.

We should all bear in mind that the purpose of such an event is not to make Catholic into Protestant, or Shriner into Kiwanian. The object is not to produce a bland, homogenized society. Rather, it is to allow us to take full advantage of the diversity that is one of the great strengths of our society. We can be different and still respect each other.

I congratulate all those who are involved in the organization of Brotherhood Night in Peterborough. They are an example to everyone in this House.

### TEACHERS' LABOUR DISPUTE

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** Last night in Kirkland Lake the striking teachers, representing kids who have been out of the school system for two months now without any action by this government or by the local board, held a meeting, an act of solidarity, to commemorate the work of the miners in 1941-42, one of the most important strikes in labour history, where although the strike was lost the right to negotiate was won.

They said to their community that teachers are as fundamentally an important part of that community as were the miners, and to request some action by this government to try to move the mediation process along and bring the board to the table, so that those teachers and those students can get the same kind of educational rights as other students and teachers throughout northern Ontario.

### VISITOR

**The Speaker:** I would inform the members that I would like them to recognize a special guest in the Speaker's gallery. We have the Minister of Housing from New South Wales, Australia, the Honourable Joe Schipp. Would the members please join me in welcoming Mr Schipp.

**Hon Mr Conway:** I would like to seek the unanimous consent of the House so that members of each of the political parties can address the very tragic circumstances developing in the People's Republic of China.

**The Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

### EVENTS IN CHINA

**Hon Mr Wong:** In the last few days the eyes of the world have been focused on Beijing. We abhor the bloodshed, grieve over the loss of life and deeply regret the destructive turmoil.

In speaking on behalf of the government, I know that we were all shocked to learn of the tragic events that have taken place. Although events are unfolding at a very rapid pace in China, it is our belief as Canadians and friends of the People's Republic of China that we remain clear in our resolve to support the people in their quest for greater freedom and democracy while condemning the brutal use of force.

As Canadians in a province which has had an important relationship with China, we should maintain a posture that can assist the people of the People's Republic of China to return as early as possible to a state of stability and peace and to a constructive path of social, economic and political reform.

I am sure that I speak for everyone in this House and for all Ontarians when I condemn the senseless violence, the resulting deaths and injuries, and the failure of the Chinese authorities to deal with the situation in a peaceful, nonviolent way.

News of the deaths and injuries in Beijing have deeply affected all Ontarians, particularly those who have family and friends in that city. The Ontario government is concerned about the wellbeing of all Ontarians in Beijing and particularly concerned for the safety of 21 exchange participants who are in China as part of Ontario programs. Currently, the Ontario government is in the process of facilitating the evacuation of all students participating in the Ontario-Jiangsu exchange programs and all Ontario government employees associated with the centre.

While much confusion exists as to how far-reaching the violence in China has become, I can assure this House that the government is closely monitoring the situation. This government is working in close co-operation with the federal government, the Canadian embassy in Beijing, the consulate in Shanghai and the University of Toronto, the host agency for the student exchange program.

The Ontario government is calling for the immediate end to the violence in China. We are strongly urging the Chinese government to restore the peace and stability the Chinese people have worked so hard to achieve and maintain.

**Mr Reville:** All states are characterized by a monopoly on the legitimate use of force, but the key word is "legitimate." The requirement of legitimacy means that any state's use of force against its citizens must be carefully defined, limited and subject to internal and external accountability.

These constraints were swept aside by blood last weekend in Beijing. After six weeks of demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, involving hundreds of thousands of people engaged in nonviolent protest of conditions in their country, soldiers cleared the square at the cost of the lives of hundreds and perhaps thousands of unarmed people.

Prior to last weekend, the world watched in awe and admiration as the students of China, with care and discipline and without violence, advanced the case for democracy. For nearly six weeks, in the face of serious provocations, the student democracy movement was a model to the world of how to push a totalitarian government towards peaceful change.

The terrible event is deeply troubling to us and, I think, to the people of Ontario. Certainly it has galvanized members of the Chinese community in my riding and elsewhere, both in Canada and around the world.

As legislators, members of this assembly perhaps are more sensitive than most people to the responsibilities that attach to state power. I and my colleagues in the New Democratic Party are proud of our party's record of defending tolerance against those who would substitute the might of the state. We claim no superiority. As democrats, we believe in the moral authority that flows from those who are governed. As socialists, we are mistrustful of any claim to possess uniquely that authority.

We are shocked at the cruel cynicism of China's rulers. We are saddened by the deaths in Beijing. There is no moral justification for the actions of the Chinese state against its own people in Beijing last week.

**Mr Brandt:** I know I speak for all members when I say that rarely have I ever seen such a series of tragic and brutal events as unfolded in China over the past couple of weeks.

On behalf of my party and all Ontarians, I want to praise the many students and citizens in China for their intense desire to improve their situation, for their desire for democracy, for a liberalization of attitude to go with a liberalization of trade and economic ties with the west, and I want to praise and honour their desire to accomplish these goals, not through violence or upheaval but in fact through peaceful protest.

Unfortunately, it is with the same intensity of feeling that I must condemn the actions of the present administration in China for ordering one of the most brutal assaults I think any of us has ever witnessed, an assault by an army on its own people. There simply can be no justification for

this kind of attack, especially by soldiers who in the past have proudly proclaimed their name and heritage as being that of the people's army.

**1350**

The government of Canada has already expressed its outrage. Ontario must do the same. Words, however, are not enough. If we allow our economic ties to China to remain untouched, by our very inaction we are endorsing the present administration. We are saying: "Yes, it's horrible what you did, the lives you ordered taken. But it's okay. Don't worry. It's still business as usual." It cannot continue to be business as usual. We cannot allow that to happen.

I ask all members of the House to reflect on the events in China over the past few days and to think of the loss of human lives and of the many more thousands who were severely injured. The toll of dead and injured is by some counts close to 15,000. In other words, it is as if a harsh military machine had marched into the Ontario towns of Trenton or Pembroke or Elliot Lake and wiped out the entire population. That is the magnitude of this carnage we are talking about.

We must express through concrete action our outrage not with the Chinese people but with the present government in Beijing. That is why I call upon the Premier (Mr Peterson) and his Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr Kwinter) to close our offices in the province of Jiangsu until the Chinese government is brought to account for its actions or until it admits to and takes responsibility for the lives lost needlessly in Beijing over the past several days. By taking this action, we will not only protest in the strongest possible terms our absolute revulsion at what has occurred in China, but we will also be taking some real and meaningful steps in protecting the lives of Ontario employees who are presently employed in China.

In closing, let me say it was with great honour and pride that, as Minister of Industry and Trade some years ago, I was the one who signed the original twinning agreement with the Chinese province of Jiangsu. I believed in the need and the advantages, both economically and politically, of our trade with China. I still have those beliefs, but we cannot let the Chinese people face their future alone, without our support, by pretending that the tragedies of the past few days did not occur. Let us express our solidarity with their cause by withdrawing from China until a more humane and advanced attitude becomes a reality in the government of China.

**The Speaker:** Having listened to the three members express their concern regarding the

tragic events in China, would it be the wish of the House that I send an official copy of Hansard to the Chinese ambassador to Canada?

Agreed to.

**Hon Mr Conway:** Mr Speaker, I would like to seek a second unanimous consent so that the House could pay its respects to the late James Trotter, who served in this Legislature for a number of years.

**The Speaker:** Consent?

Agreed to.

### JAMES TROTTER

**Mr Fleet:** Jim Trotter was a member of this Legislature from 1959 until 1971. I first knew Jim Trotter as His Honour Judge Trotter, because I had an opportunity to go before him in the district court in Toronto. As a lawyer appearing before him, I was impressed by his ability to pay close attention to the arguments presented and to render a fair decision. Prior to his involvement as a member of the court, he was a very active lawyer throughout the city of Toronto and served the public in that context.

As a member of the Legislature, he was both a large-l and small-l liberal. He was a valiant defender of the interests of his constituents. One of the things he was particularly proud of was the successful opposition he led to the use of Lakeshore Boulevard in the 1960s as a racetrack, but he was also interested in the larger issues that affect all of us. He was particularly notable as an advocate and proponent of a comprehensive, prepaid health care system in Ontario. He was notable for his advocacy of liberal principles—and I use that in the small-l sense—both within the caucus and the party and in the public at large.

I had occasion a number of times to speak with Jim Trotter. I ran into him when I was canvassing in the election. Of course, he could not take part because he was a judge, but we did chat over some of the differences in the life of parliamentarians and some of the hurdles that he dealt with in order to serve the public. He was particularly pleased that in the campaign I was involved with his son, Andy, because he believed very much that social commitment was a critical aspect of every person's contribution in our society.

Recently, I had occasion as well at the funeral home to talk with others whose lives he touched in every aspect of his career. I know that his sudden passing is a great loss to his wife, Grace, and his children, Andy, Elizabeth and Virginia. It is a particularly noticeable loss because of the knowledge that we are all better off for his having

been an active member of this Legislature and our society.

**Mr Laughren:** I know that Judge Trotter served before I arrived in Queen's Park. I was elected in 1971 and he had served up until then. But, as someone obviously interested in the political process here at Queen's Park prior to my arrival here, I certainly followed the debates and I knew of Mr Trotter and the consistently progressive positions that he took as a member of an opposition party in those days. I know as well that when he moved to become a judge his decisions were consistent with those positions he had taken here at Queen's Park. So though I did not personally know Mr Trotter, I do want to extend condolences to the Trotter family on behalf of me and my colleagues in the New Democratic caucus.

**Mr Harris:** I want to rise on behalf of my party to pay tribute to His Honour Jim Trotter. As has been said by others, he served with distinction for 12 years as an MPP at Queen's Park. I am told by those whom I have talked to who knew him, as I was not here in those days, that he was a man of integrity not only before he arrived here but while he was here and after he left; that he indeed fought hard for those causes that he believed in.

I noted in the Globe and Mail obituary that it indicated he served for 12 years during his "party's lean days" and I can relate to that. I want to reflect on the impact that as an opposition member he was able to have, both personally and on behalf of his party, in this chamber. I am privileged on behalf of our party to have the opportunity to extend our condolences to his wife, Grace, and their three children.

**The Speaker:** As usual, when Hansard is printed, I will, on behalf of all members, forward a copy to the Trotter family so that your words of sympathy are received by them.

### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

#### ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED

**Hon Mr Patten:** As members of this assembly are well aware, this decade has seen a new awareness in the way in which the workplace is designed and maintained. At the Ministry of Government Services, we own or lease the buildings that house government programs across the province. Our new buildings are models of barrier-free design. Today I am pleased to announce, with my colleague the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr Mancini), that we are launching

a new initiative to improve the accessibility of our older buildings—our courthouses, registry offices, psychiatric hospitals, agricultural colleges, office buildings and so on.

**1400**

The \$38 million, five-year initiative, introduced in the budget of the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon), will ensure, where possible, that persons who are disabled will have barrier-free access to Ontario government buildings.

My ministry has already produced a technical guide to barrier-free design. We have completed a three-year survey of all Ontario-owned and -leased facilities.

Now we are ready to begin work on the first 170 projects throughout Ontario.

Work on buildings as diverse as the registry office in Thunder Bay, the London Psychiatric Hospital, the Ontario Provincial Police detachment in Hearst, Sir James Whitney School in Belleville and the Supreme Court and county court buildings in Toronto will be completed this fiscal year.

L'Organisation des Nations unies a déclaré la décennie 1983-1993 celle des personnes handicapées. En signant cette déclaration, l'Ontario nous a apporté plusieurs défis, dont l'accessibilité des personnes handicapées à tous les immeubles gouvernementaux, autant aux immeubles nouveaux et existants qu'aux édifices historiques.

This \$38 million initiative, developed jointly by the Ministry of Government Services and the Office responsible for Disabled Persons, reflects this government's strong commitment to meet those challenges.

I am delighted to make this statement.

**Hon Mrs McLeod:** This is National Access Awareness Week, encouraging us to take stock of the barriers that keep people with disabilities from fully participating in and contributing to our communities.

It would be very difficult, indeed, to participate fully without access to education. The Ministry of Colleges and Universities has been working on removing the sometimes invisible barriers to our post-secondary institutions.

Our universities have also been working on removing barriers. In the last two years, nearly \$6.5 million has been committed by the universities to improving facilities and making programs more accessible to students with disabilities.

The physical barriers are perhaps the easiest to detect. If a student cannot read the floor numbers in an elevator, open a classroom door or climb stairs to the library, he or she would have a

difficult time getting through one day of studies, let alone a three-year degree.

But the barriers are sometimes more subtle than that. There is a need for support and counselling for those who have less visible disabilities such as the hard of hearing or persons with learning disabilities.

In March 1988 we announced that an additional \$3.1 million would be allocated to the colleges of applied arts and technology to provide the kind of counselling support needed by these students with disabilities. In 1989 this money became part of our base funding.

Today I am pleased to announce that \$4 million is being committed to promote access for students with disabilities at Ontario universities.

The \$4 million will be used by universities to establish and staff a special needs office to provide counselling, professional resources and information.

A student with a hearing impairment, for instance, might wish to go there to find out where he or she could get a lecture transcribed, or find out about interpreter services.

The funds will also go towards providing professional development activities to acquaint all personnel with the needs of students with disabilities and the obligations facing the institutions.

If we carry on with the hard of hearing student, a professor might wish to look at the resources available to ensure a lecture is understood by all students in the class, which could mean taping the session or having it transcribed for those with limited hearing.

The funds will also help provide support services such as attendant care on a limited basis as well as devices and equipment for students with disabilities.

Each university will receive a minimum level of support of \$30,000 for the development of programs for students with disabilities. Additional funding will be provided to each institution based on enrolment.

It is increasingly important that our post-secondary institutions develop a welcoming environment for all students. I believe the measures announced today will work toward that goal.

## RESPONSES

### ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED

**Mr Allen:** As someone who, when he first came to this Legislature, engaged in a major battle to secure the survival of an audio library at Trent University, at virtually the beginning of the

Decade of Disabled Persons, nine years later I am pleased to see that we are beginning to see some serious action from the government with respect to some of the outstanding issues. Certainly the announcements today are a significant help, in particular, the announcements by the Minister of Government Services, which I am going to be responding to. A colleague will be responding to the second statement.

The problem we face is that there is such an accumulated delay in this whole field that, when one speaks of barrier-free access, it sounds great. When one establishes barrier-free design centres, as this government has done, it sounds great. When we produce access design awards, it sounds great. When we give awards to the disabled for their participation in the community, as we do, that is all great stuff.

The problem, however, is that when one comes to some very fundamental aspects of barrier-free access, some of them tangible and some of them intangible, the record is still extremely difficult to confront. For example, the government itself and the Ministry of Transportation for some years now have had before it a memorandum of agreement by disabled groups asking it to sign a timetable whereby it would endorse a certain schedule of implementation of the integration of public and disabled transportation. We have had literally no action on that memorandum or any of the contents. It is true we have a few disabled accessible taxis for the disabled. We have some more studies that the minister a year ago said he would immediately be taking action on and yet none of the dimensions of that relating to integrated public transportation access have secured even a nod of agreement from the government or from the ministry.

If one looks at education, for example, another case that I have been fighting for several years now is the Thompson family with some very able disabled boys who have fought for years to get ministry support for their education and have failed, even though they have won court cases on the question. The younger of the two boys recently graduated from a notable American school at incredible cost and incredible sacrifice to the family and has now been accepted in industrial design in two—not just one—of the most advanced institutions in the United States for that study, and we have been unprepared to support that family and that boy in his attempt to secure access to employment.

One could go on with lots of examples. I just want to highlight the fact that we are far from winning this war. There is an immense number of

battles for us to wage out there. Let's keep the movement going and accelerate it as rapidly as we possibly can.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** Maybe I will not be quite as generous as my colleague has been. When I look at this announcement, which makes it sound like there is going to be \$4 million worth of new money going in, in point of fact it will be less than \$1 million of real money. We are talking about \$30,000 guaranteed to each institution for people with severe disability trying to get in. A colleague has said that this government is more like a speed bump on the access ramp to equality than a facilitator of access and this kind of announcement is kind of a slap in the face to people.

Let's use the example of the deaf that is being talked about here. The reality is that virtually no deaf person in the province can go to university in this province. The kind of support services the minister is talking about putting in today will not make it any easier for a deaf person to go, and counselling to tell them where there might be an interpreter is not going to be helpful. Providing \$30,000 to an institution to help somebody who maybe needs attendant care, which in the cases I have taken have cost as much as \$16,000 to \$20,000 a year per student, is not major access to people with major disabilities who want to go on to higher education.

This government has to get serious about making real equality possible for people with disability and not just putting forward more token programs with inflated figures trying to mask the fact that in fact it is not putting in real dollars into these programs at all.

**Mr J. M. Johnson:** On behalf of our caucus, I would like to commend the Minister of Government Services for the initiative, to provide barrier-free access to the Ontario government buildings and accessibility for the older government buildings. I would also like to suggest to the minister that he should encourage his government to provide the same access funding to the municipal councils in Ontario to help them provide access to their village council chambers and town halls. This is a service that is needed and the government is encouraging them to provide this service. It should support them financially because many of them need that support.

**1410**

Also, while we are on this topic, I would like to digress just slightly and suggest to the government that it has a responsibility to provide access to senior citizens' apartment buildings

that have more than one floor. It is a shame to see these people who are living on second floors denied access to their own homes, to their apartments. We deny them that access by not providing elevators in those buildings. They were built several years ago. They need those elevators. I have pleaded with the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs Wilson) and the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr Mancini). I urge this minister to please prevail upon his colleagues in caucus to provide those seniors with the access they need for their own homes. Surely this is as important as providing access to government buildings.

**Mrs Marland:** I am sure that when my colleague congratulates the government he is also reflecting on the fact that barrier-free accessibility was a program started by the former government of which all our caucus members are proud.

The question I hope this minister and the minister for the disabled, who unfortunately I assume is absent today, will consider is the fact that we have one million disabled people in Ontario today, and that under the home renewal program for the disabled, which is a terribly important program for renovations and changes to homes to make those homes accessible and functional for disabled people, out of those one million people only 750 have been able to access the fund for those renovations.

In fact, since the program seems to run out of money very early in the fiscal year, I say to the minister that if he is speaking to the minister for the disabled, I hope that particular program will be allocated some of his \$38 million, for that specific fund for the disabled, because there is a tremendous need, a large number of applications that simply are not met. Also, just labelling buildings barrier free and accessible is not enough. There are a lot of buildings including our own that are labelled barrier free. In fact, in this very building, I could take members to a washroom that is identified as being accessible and in fact is not accessible.

**Mr Jackson:** I would like to acknowledge as well the announcement of the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs McLeod) this afternoon. I also read it in the *Globe and Mail* a couple of days ago. I want to commend her because it is a first step in this area of providing access to attendant care for post-secondary students. As my colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr R. F. Johnston) has

indicated, it is not a lot of dollars and it probably will not go very far, but it is a start.

Unfortunately, we have a government that includes some cabinet colleagues of hers who have not gone as far as she has in winning this argument at the cabinet table. It is unfortunate, for example, in the case of Wally Elgersma, a case I continually bring to the attention of this government. This 11-year-old child with spina bifida does not have access to educational support services and he does not have access to badly needed medical support services because this government has a barrier for children who are attending private schools. That is grossly unfair.

I ask that this minister, who has overcome this hurdle in cabinet, assist the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan) and the Minister of Education (Mr Ward) to overcome the hurdles they personally have with the issue of making sure that all children in this province have similar access to these types of programs.

It is interesting that today we will debate the issue of heritage languages. This government has a policy of pride that heritage languages will be accessible to private school children in this province, but we will not give them equal medical attention and support in this province. That is an unfair double standard and a barrier this government has yet to overcome.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### CONDUCT OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Mr Reville:** My questions are for the Premier. Over the past 19 days, since 18 May in fact, many people, including members of my caucus and my party, have wondered about the Premier's standards for regulating and overseeing the conduct of the members of his cabinet. Will the Premier tell the House just what his standards are for ministerial conduct?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I am very happy to do so. As the member knows, a number of guidelines have been published and he has seen some of them. There has been a discussion of some of them with respect to discussions with the police—under what circumstances it is appropriate, who should speak to the police and who should not—as my honourable friend will know.

There are conflict-of-interest guidelines now enshrined into law. The member will recall this Legislature brought those into being. My honourable friend will be aware of that. Some tell me that those, which apply to all members of this House, are some of the toughest conflict-of-interest guidelines anywhere.

There are several levels of, shall we say, enforcement. The conflict-of-interest commissioner in certain situations obviously would be appropriately involved. The member, any other member of this House or any private citizen can refer a matter to the conflict-of-interest commissioner for an independent resolution. There are certain other guidelines I have the obligation to interpret, as my honourable friend is aware. I think that is a parliamentary tradition that has gone on probably for 400 or 500 years.

**Mr Reville:** Members of this Legislature are well aware of the conflict-of-interest legislation and of the ability of people to refer matters to the commissioner. I guess what I am more interested in is to understand from the Premier whether he intends to provide a detailed elaboration of those standards of behaviour, such as were set out by Prime Minister Trudeau in 1976 or Premier Davis in 1978. Will he in fact embrace those standards publicly for the Legislature and the people of Ontario?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Those are the operative standards and I am very happy to share those. We inherited a number of guidelines and I think my honourable friend is aware of those, but if he is not, I would be happy to share them with him. In addition to that, we have gone on and enshrined in legislation the Members' Conflict of Interest Act. So we have taken it beyond that, as my honourable friend is aware.

**Mr Reville:** The Premier again refers to the conflict-of-interest legislation, but he has neglected to say to the House clearly whether or not the standards set out by Premier Davis in 1978 are the standards he uses to regulate the members of his cabinet and their behaviour. How does he come to the kinds of judgements he does come to when he is looking at such standards? Are the standards he is looking at the Premier Davis standards or are they not?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I thought I answered my honourable friend. Yes, we have embraced those but have indeed gone beyond them, and now we have the thorough disclosure legislation for cabinet ministers as well as all members of the House. Yes, we have embraced those but have gone beyond them.

**Mr Reville:** The Premier's words are good and the actions are questionable.

**Mr Ballinger:** That's a value judgement.

**Mr Reville:** Indeed, it is a value judgement.

#### USE OF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION'S FUNDS

**Mr Reville:** This is also to the Premier. There have been allegations in the media that one

Patricia Starr, the Premier's choice as chairman of Ontario Place, channelled thousands of dollars of charitable contributions to Liberals seeking electoral nominations, seeking positions within the Liberal party, seeking election as Liberal candidates either to this place or to the House of Commons. Given the seriousness of those kinds of allegations, I wonder if the Premier would tell the House why it is that neither the Ontario Provincial Police nor the Metropolitan Toronto Police are investigating these allegations.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** They may well be. I do not ask police forces to investigate. We have just gone through that discussion. My honourable friend, I assume, is not changing his mind in that regard. But I should tell him that the public trustee is looking into this entire matter, as he knows. He is going to report some time in the not-too-distant future, so I am told. Certainly it is his prerogative, should he feel there is anything improper, to call in the police at any point he thinks is appropriate.

1420

**Mr Reville:** My understanding is different from the Premier's, and perhaps he would like to file some kind of report on the activities of the public trustee.

The Premier will know as well that under the Income Tax Act, charities are not permitted to make political contributions and the penalty for that kind of behaviour could include loss of charitable status and other kinds of penalties. In order to protect the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, the Toronto section, of which Ms Starr was the president, does he think it would be appropriate to ask the auditor to conduct a forensic audit to determine whether behaviour of the type complained of has in fact occurred?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I say to my honourable friend that all the facts must come out. The question is, how does one go about that? We have a public trustee who is an independent public official, with about the same status as the Provincial Auditor I think my honourable friend would agree, to look at these matters. He is doing exactly that investigation right now and will do exactly what my friend is asking for.

**Mr Reville:** I may be incorrect but my understanding is that the investigation the Premier talks about is not being conducted by the public trustee, by the Ontario Provincial Police, by the Metro police, or by the Department of Revenue.

I wonder if the Premier is concerned, as I am, about the media reports that allege the campaign organization of the member for Oakwood (Ms Hošek) received funds from Patricia Starr in the amount of more than \$750, an amount that would be in excess of that permitted by the Election Finances Act. Does the Premier think it would be appropriate for the Commission on Election Finances to investigate these allegations at the meeting it is having on 21 June next?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Absolutely. I think it is appropriate that the election expenses commission should look at that.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** What have you asked anybody to do on this?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I say to my honourable friend that I take it very seriously when allegations are made. My honourable friend will be aware that allegations are made every day. Frankly, some are accurate and some are not accurate. But I think it is incumbent upon us to use the institutions we have to track that down and make sure all the facts are there.

We have the public trustee looking at the matters I discussed with my friend. I think the election expenses commission is there. It is headed by a New Democrat, someone in whom the member has great faith, a former member of this House, Donald MacDonald, a former leader of his party. I have great faith in him and we all agreed to his appointment. I trust him and his commission to look into this. If there is anything improper, anything that is slightly amiss, restitution should be made. I agree with my honourable friend in that regard.

#### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO POLICE STATION

**Mr Brandt:** My question is for the Premier as well. I want to say to the Premier in all sincerity that we recognize the difficulty of the Solicitor General (Mrs Smith) in making the decision she did with respect to the resignation she submitted to him. We believe that was the right decision under the circumstances. Speaking on behalf of our party, we respect that decision on the part of the Solicitor General.

However, we would like to point out to the Premier that we are still left with a bit of a dilemma in connection with the way in which this matter has unfolded. That comes from the fact that the Solicitor General has indicated she resigned because the House was in a state of paralysis and to allow us to get back to business again. There has been no admission on the part of the Solicitor General, nor on the part of the

Premier, that the visit to the Ontario Provincial Police Lucan detachment was in fact inappropriate. Will the Premier indicate to this House clearly whether he feels the visit was inappropriate under the circumstances?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I think the honourable minister indicated regret. Obviously, we wish the whole thing had not taken place. I do not get any joy out of this; my honourable friend probably does not either. Let me just take him back. Some people question her judgement. I do not think it was ever an issue of integrity. It was an issue of judgement, whether the things she did were appropriate for a Solicitor General and whether they warranted her being fired in the circumstances. My friend and his colleagues obviously took the view and expressed it very vociferously in this House that she should be fired.

I discussed this yesterday with the Solicitor General. She was very concerned about a number of things and decided to tender her resignation. I accepted it. She was concerned about the fact that this House had come to a state of paralysis for a variety of reasons and taking advantage of the rules to bring everything else to a halt. That concerned her because she believes in the agenda of this government and the things we have to do in capping insurance rates, in heritage languages, in environment and in education, in so many important issues at stake.

She was also concerned, I say to my honourable friend, about the progress she had made with the Police Act. As members know, and my honourable friend would agree with me, there are a number of very sensitive issues today with regard to policing. She wanted to have complete credibility in dealing with those issues and thought that going through an inquiry would just impair the ability to deal with the real issues.

The honourable member knows and I know that mistakes are judged very harshly in politics. It was a mistake. We will have different opinions on the severity of that mistake, but she came to the conclusion that she was less able to do the really important things, given the tarnish that was there.

Frankly, she has discussed it with her family and did not think it was constructive for the government or for her personally to go through an inquiry, although at the same time very comfortable with the facts of the situation. They are all there. We can all make our judgement. She came to the conclusion she did. I support that and I think my honourable friend, certainly if not

in political terms, in human terms can understand that response.

**Mr Brandt:** I would like to point out to the Premier that a letter dated 9 May was sent by one of his cabinet colleagues to a constituent. I will provide the Premier with that letter. However, I would like to quote from it, if I might: "Thank you for your letter dated April 10th, in which you outline a complaint against several members of the Lucan OPP. It would be inappropriate for me to intervene directly in this matter."

That letter was sent by the Solicitor General prior to her visiting the OPP detachment in Lucan. On the one hand, she indicates it would be totally inappropriate for her to make that visitation; on the other hand, because it involved perhaps a son of the friend of the Solicitor General—how can it be both? For the first time, the Premier has made an admission that at least a mistake was committed. We on this side are looking for some standard of conduct that he and his cabinet can be held to in connection with this kind of intervention.

All we are asking is, in this particular instance, was the visit to the OPP Lucan detachment appropriate or inappropriate?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I do not know of the letter my honourable friend refers to or what the incident involved is. I would be happy if he would send it to me.

I think we established in this House that the minister was responding to a call in the middle of the night. He thinks it was inappropriate and that is fair enough, but that was the circumstance under which she responded. It was not a normal practice to do this kind of thing. It was not a normal situation. She responded in a human way. Many people think it was inappropriate. She did the honourable thing and resigned.

If my honourable friend has anything else—I do not know what he is interested in establishing now. Does he just want to throw more sand on the coffin? He should help me out.

**Mr Brandt:** I think the Premier is being a little unfair when he uses the—

**Mr Ballinger:** Look in the mirror, Andy.

**Mr Brandt:** What I do when I look in the mirror, I might say to my honourable friend, I see situations like that of George Kerr who also took the honourable route.

**The Speaker:** Final supplementary.

**Mr Brandt:** I am attempting to establish by way of final supplementary, very simply, is it appropriate or inappropriate for any member of the Premier's cabinet, in dealing with a matter of

some sensitivity relative to the responsibilities of his portfolio, to make the kind of intervention and the kind of contact, innocently or otherwise, that we have established took place with respect to the Lucan OPP? All we want is a clear indication from the Premier what level of conduct and what level of standard he is prepared to establish for himself and the members of his cabinet.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Obviously, it is not appropriate to interfere with any police investigation by anyone, by the Solicitor General, or by a member of Parliament for that matter.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** There is a difference.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I agree with my honourable friend that there is a higher standard for a Solicitor General. I say it is not appropriate to interfere in any way in an investigation, although she has to stand and defend the ministry in this regard. Any communication should obviously take place through the deputy or the commission, and not directly with any kind of a constable or officer.

1430

We have to avoid at all cost the perception that there is one class of justice for one and one class of justice for another or that anybody through special influence can do things. I think we established the facts in the case and that that was not the case, but we understand, on the other hand, the appearance of that.

My honourable friend asked me for the standard and that is the standard. It applies to all members of this House. My honourable friend opposite has made light sometimes of not getting a ticket because the policeman was a Conservative. He is the one who joked about that, so before my honourable friend lectures too toughly to other people, before he is too harsh and too sanctimonious, he may want to think about his own behaviour as well, because we are all flawed human beings, we all make mistakes, and sometimes it is helpful to find a little charity in our souls.

[Applause]

**Mr Brandt:** Thank you for the applause, but it was hardly necessary.

#### CONDUCT OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Mr Brandt:** My question is with respect to a bill that was proposed by my colleague the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr Runciman). In the context of that particular bill my colleague proposed a series of standards, if you will, for cabinet ministers which in his view should be

followed and which we endorse as being a reasonable position that should have been endorsed by the government.

For whatever reasons, the Premier was unable to make that particular vote when it was called in this House, so he was unable to place his position on the record with respect to how he feels about the bill that was proposed by the member for Leeds-Grenville.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Callahan:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I believe that the rules say that if a bill has been introduced and defeated, as I understand this one was, it is out of order to raise that issue again in the House.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. I understand the member's point of order and I know that if a matter has been dealt with, it cannot be dealt with by the House. However, we are in question period, and I ask the member to continue and place the question.

**Mr Brandt:** Since the Premier was absent for the vote as it relates to this particular bill, would he indicate to the House whether he endorses the bill that was proposed by my colleague the member for Leeds-Grenville and whether he accepts that particular standard of behaviour for cabinet ministers?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Let me say to the honourable member I take very seriously any private member's bill that is introduced. I support the process here of discussing those matters with all members, and the government takes seriously any view of the House on those matters. But when the member opposite introduces a bill and votes against his own bill on the first reading, how does he expect us to take it very seriously?

**Mr Sterling:** We didn't vote against it.

**The Speaker:** Order. Supplementary, the member for Leeds-Grenville.

**Mr Runciman:** The record will show that all members of this party voted in support of that bill.

Mr Speaker—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. The member for Leeds-Grenville is waiting patiently.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. If you wish to waste the time, go ahead.

**Mr Runciman:** This is indeed a very important and significant matter, certainly in the minds of the opposition parties, and the issue here is cabinet standards.

The Premier recently told the media that he instructed one of his bodyguards to call the Ontario Provincial Police regarding an accidental death at his home. There was no reason to do this, because, as he has often said—in fact, has reiterated here today—he does not tell the OPP how to do their jobs.

This incident raises the same questions about standards of conduct for cabinet ministers that we have been discussing the last two weeks. Is the Premier prepared today to table guidelines concerning communications between members of the cabinet and police and judicial officials which indicate clearly that this type of communication will not be tolerated?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I think I have dealt with that in responding to some of the other questions, and the member was asked about his bill which he voted against. For a variety of reasons my friends obviously believe there should be a standard for such communications, but they cannot have it both ways.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Runciman:** Again, the issue here is cabinet standards, apparently a very humorous matter in government benches.

**The Speaker:** The question?

**Mr Runciman:** I am amazed by the lack of judgement—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** This might be the appropriate time to remind all members that a question is to ask for information, not necessarily offer. Please place your supplementary.

**Mr Runciman:** We are amazed by the lack of judgement shown by the Premier in this matter. Will the Premier acknowledge today that his communication with the OPP was improper and that clear written directions will be introduced so that communications between cabinet ministers and police or judicial officials regarding personal matters will never be tolerated under any circumstances?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I think cabinet ministers are very familiar with their duties, and I appreciate the member's advice on this matter.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Mr Mackenzie:** I have a question of the Minister of Labour. The minister will be aware of

the revelation in the case of the women who worked at the Canadian General Electric lamp plant on Dufferin Street in Toronto and who are trying to get compensation for the cancer they now have. In December 1982, the Ministry of Labour knew that the cancer-causing agent thorium was present in the dust in the coil and wire drawing department where the women worked.

The Labour ministry informed the Atomic Energy Control Board, which wrote to the company, CGE, telling it to clean up its act. The Minister of Labour and CGE would not tell the union or my New Democrat colleague Elie Martel, at the time. In fact, the company said thorium was not used in the department where the women worked.

When the minister took over the ministry, the case of the women from the lamp plant claiming compensation for their cancer was one of the better-known industrial disease claims outstanding. Why did the minister not make this information available to the unions and to the official opposition and why did he persist in this government coverup?

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** There are times in this Legislature when I think that members of the opposition will go to just about any extent to—how shall I put it?—misportray matters of public information and matters of interest to this Parliament.

Interjections.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** Well, this is a serious matter.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. I am sure the member has created a little disorder and would want to change that word.

1440

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** In this case, I am not unattracted to the word "misportray," but I will withdraw it if it is your advice to do this.

Let me just put the facts of the case on the record. My friend the member for Hamilton East has said that in 1982 information was not made available to opposition parties or to the union in respect of the use of thorium at the Canadian General Electric plant in west Toronto. The fact is that the question of the presence of thorium, as I am told by ministry officials, was discussed not only with the union but with the joint health and safety committee at the plant at that time.

Indeed, I am told that in February 1983 a letter was sent to one of my predecessors, the incumbent minister at the time. It was received

from Elie Martel, the former MPP for Sudbury East, who inquired as to why the ministry had failed, etc. At that time, the former member for Sudbury East was informed about all matters relating to the presence of thorium in that facility. For my friend the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel) to suggest some seven years later that information was withheld I think is rather unfortunate and reduces somewhat the kinds of standards of debate in the House.

Let me put one other thing on the record, Mr Speaker, if I might. A few days ago on 19 May—

**The Speaker:** No, with respect.

**Mr Mackenzie:** Here we have a case of at least 11, now we think 14 and maybe more workers, some dead, some still hanging on, who have been trying to get compensation for their industrial diseases since well before 1980. The Workers' Compensation Board refuses to recognize site-specific claims based on the probability that their cancer came from the workplace. Two examples are Inco's old sintering plant in Sudbury and Dofasco's foundry in Hamilton. Now the WCB's Industrial Disease Standards Panel will not allow claims unless there is conclusive proof that conditions in a workplace caused the disease, and that is an almost impossible task to establish, as the minister knows.

Why has the minister not done something in Bill 162, his amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act, that would give the benefit of the doubt to workers with industrial diseases and, in particular, ensure that the women and their families from the CGE plant, which have been fighting now for a good many years, receive the compensation—

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr Mackenzie:** —to which it is now obvious they are entitled because of the knowledge that thorium in one of the plants—

**The Speaker:** The question was put.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** Once again, I think the tack the member for Hamilton East is taking on this issue is really unfortunate, particularly because I know him to be a member who has brought to public debate issues relating to industrial disease and workplace health and safety for a good many years. But he knows quite well that the Industrial Disease Standards Panel does not make these determinations. It is a scientific body that reports to the board.

That report must be gazetted, the unions and any other person interested in that report may make comment and the Workers' Compensation

Board, based on the report of the Industrial Disease Standards Panel and any other body that wishes to comment, will make the determination. So it is unfortunate for the member to pretend in this House that it is the Industrial Disease Standards Panel which has denied compensation when that is clearly not the case.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

#### HIRING OF HOUSING CONSULTANT

**Mr Harris:** I have a question for the Premier regarding the \$232,000 contract awarded by the Ministry of Housing to Dino Chiesa, someone who has been described as a Liberal Party fund-raiser, a campaign worker for the minister and who is known to have made a substantial personal donation to the Minister of Housing (Ms Hošek) in the last election. I would like to know when the Premier first learned of Mr Chiesa's appointment and whether he is satisfied with the circumstances and the process surrounding the appointment of Mr Chiesa to that position.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I will let the minister give the honourable member all the details of that.

**Hon Ms Hošek:** All of us have sat in the House while the member opposite has indicated repeatedly that he wanted to see government action on our government land. The member opposite knows that we have made a commitment to making sure the government land that we have will be developed for meeting the housing needs of this province. In order to do that we needed someone who had the kind of expertise that was required to make sure that our land would come on stream and meet our housing goals.

In order to do that the Deputy Minister of Housing developed selection criteria for the kind of person and expertise that was needed to do this job. He developed those selection criteria, and I assure the member opposite that the hiring of the person who was hired to do this work was done under those selection criteria and in accordance with Management Board guidelines.

**Mr Harris:** I was interested in knowing when the Premier knew, but I do have a supplementary based on the minister's answer. I am advised that five people were contacted and interviewed. The person given the \$250,000 contract just happened to be the one with the best Liberal credentials.

Management Board issues mandatory directives to prevent these kinds of coincidences. The directives state that awards of more than \$25,000

must be made through a competitive process. Can the minister tell this House why a competitive process was ignored, and specifically why a \$232,000 contract with the government would not be tendered or even advertised?

**Hon Ms Hošek:** My deputy has advised me that all appropriate procedures for hiring were followed. The member opposite should also know that we have shared the selection criteria on the basis of which this appointment was made with his office. I would be glad to share them with him in the House if he wants me to.

There were five people interviewed. The person chosen was someone whom the deputy minister thought was the best person for the job. The person who was hired has 11 years of experience working for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp in the public sector doing housing work. He also has two years of experience in the private sector. He therefore combines the kind of expertise in both public and private sector development that the deputy felt was appropriate for this job, and that is why he was chosen to do it.

#### ELECTRICITY DEMAND AND SUPPLY

**Mr Owen:** I have a question for the Minister of Energy. Recently I have been looking at forecasts for this province which indicate that in the next decade there is expected to be a doubling of hydro consumption for Ontario. At the same time, I have been looking at the northeastern United States desperately searching even now for more hydro supplies and looking increasingly to Canada to meet that need.

These forecasts are indicating that it could have a serious effect on pushing up the price of hydro in our province and reducing availability of hydro at the same time in Ontario. Will the minister share with us today the forecasts of this province's future requirements and does he have any indication or information as to how and where these requirements are going to be met?

**Hon Mr Wong:** I would like to thank the member for Simcoe Centre for his question. Let me say first that for more than half a century in Ontario the amount of electricity and the capacity has grown from very small numbers to a current in-service capacity of 28,000 megawatts. What we are thinking of adding to this capacity between now and the turn of the century, in the next 10 to 11 years, is approximately 9,000 megawatts, which is another one-third increase. This is a very significant increase for the people in the industry in the province.

In answering the second part of the honourable member's question, there are a number of ways in which we can address that problem to make sure that we have reliable supplies of electricity for the province. One, of course, is additional nonutility generation. Other considerations are purchases from neighbouring provinces; the addition of major new generating stations; new capacity at presently mothballed stations, and of course the acceleration of the demand management and electrical efficiency programs.

1450

**Mr Owen:** The debate has gone on for some time as to the pros and cons of various sources of energy. We have had arguments, pro and con, about coal-fired stations, about importing future power needs, as has been suggested by the minister in his answer, and about natural gas and nuclear energy sources. But one of the possible sources that I have heard from people in Ontario that is available and we have not entirely looked at or explored fully is independent generation. It may not supply all the needs, but Ontario Hydro may not have all the answers either.

By way of supplementary, would the minister comment on the possible future of independent generation and whether there are any programs currently available from his ministry to support independent energy producers outside, above and beyond Ontario Hydro?

**Hon Mr Wong:** Yes, on the whole subject of independent generation, we believe this is important to the province. While Ontario Hydro remains the largest and the main supplier of electricity to the province, the province does recognize the importance of independent power generation to our system. Small hydro and industrial cogeneration would be two specific examples. The ministry and the government are currently working on a parallel generation policy paper which hopefully will tie together all of the elements of our supply and demand system and the different participants in the system.

With respect to targets, I think this is important. Ontario Hydro has indicated that it plans to help to facilitate 1,000 extra megawatts of power by the year 2000. The government has looked at these figures and said, "We'd like to see that 1,000 done sooner than the year 2000 and we believe that an additional 1,000 could also be completed."

#### EVENTS IN CHINA

**Mr Reville:** My question is to the Premier. When terrible things happen and there is a loss of life in other places, it has been common for this

government to take the lead in helping to organize the assistance that its people are so eager to provide. I was expecting the Minister of Energy to make such an offer in his statement.

I wonder if the Premier will now commit his government to providing the organizational assistance to our large Chinese community and other Ontarians who would like to respond to the calamity in Beijing.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Let me say the honourable member's suggestion is a good one and a constructive one. The question is always how we best respond in these circumstances.

As my honourable friend knows, Ontarians have responded generously to a wide variety of tragedies around the world, in Armenia, in Jamaica and in Mexico. We have built schools, we have provided immediate relief goods and reconstruction materials and have always tried to work with the communities in that regard. At this moment it may be happening. It is not clear to me if there is a particular group in the Chinese community that is organizing to assist. If so, I do not know how they have chosen to assist.

Let me tell my honourable friend that I will take his suggestion seriously and share the information with my colleagues in the House if there are things we could do. At this moment, frankly, I do not have the answer to that. I think, as is shared by all members of this House, we look at what is going on there with a sense of deep futility and wish we could do something to solve these things. Maybe there are ways in which at least we can help certain human beings.

**Mr Reville:** I appreciate the Premier's answer. I think there may be some ways we can help. I understand money is being spontaneously contributed, even as we sit here.

I have just been advised of a problem that I would like to share with the Premier. I understand that some Chinese nationals who are studying here in Ontario are concerned that because of their political activity in connection with the democracy struggle, the Beijing regime may cut their funds off. I would like the Premier to consider at the same time setting up a fund of compassionate assistance for those students, if in fact their fears are realized.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I was not aware of that. I take the honourable member's suggestion very seriously. We obviously, from a compassion point of view, want to do whatever we can to help those students who are here obviously wondering about their own families in their own country at the present time.

I should tell my honourable friend, since I am on my feet, that we do have 21 Ontario students in China at the present time. To the best of my knowledge, contact or at least attempted contact has been made with all of them. We are trying to assist them. Some are being evacuated. We are trying to tend to our responsibilities in that regard in conjunction with the Canadian government. If my honourable friend is interested, I can bring him up to date on the progress. As I am sure he will know, it has not been easy.

His idea is a good one. I will discuss it with my colleagues. If he has any more suggestions on how we can respond in a sensitive and humane way, I would be delighted to hear them.

#### CHAIRMAN OF ONTARIO PLACE CORP

**Mr McLean:** My question is for the Premier and it has to do with Patricia Starr, chairman of Ontario Place Corp.

Following recent allegations that she approved several political payments, including one to the Premier's brother, when she had sole signing authority for the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, the Toronto section's capital fund, it is not appropriate that she is currently on leave. Why has the Premier not demanded her resignation?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I am very aware of the allegations that have been made. We have discussed it in the House. The public trustee is looking into all of this and we obviously cannot support anybody doing anything illegal or improper. She is in a leave-of-absence situation pending a resolution of these matters.

**Mr McLean:** The Premier does not seem to appreciate the seriousness of Ms Starr's actions. Because of her own political payments, the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section, could very well lose its charitable status. Her alleged political payments are a direct contravention of the federal Income Tax Act. Does he not think Ms Starr should vacate her government-appointed position at Ontario Place immediately and permanently?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I think I have dealt with that. As the member knows, there is a suggestion of a number of political payments, including to a number of Conservatives as well, out of that fund. I say to my honourable friend that he, I know, would want to make sure that the facts are clearly established. There can be no fear or favour in that regard and they all have to come out. I think my honourable friend would say she has taken a leave of absence and has nothing to do with Ontario Place, as I said, pending a

resolution of these matters. I think that is fair in the circumstances.

#### MINING

**Mr Campbell:** My question is for the Minister of Mines. During the first session of this assembly, the minister introduced a green paper on the Ontario Mining Act. Various government officials and ministries, as well as client groups, were asked for their comments and views. Can the minister provide this House with a progress report on how the consultation process has been received?

**Hon Mr Conway:** Very happily. I want to say to my friend the member for Sudbury and to other members of the House who I know share his interest in mining matters that we have had a very positive response over the last number of months to the green paper which contained the policy proposals that the government is advancing for purposes of a new Mining Act. I believe we have had something like 86—

**Mr Pouliot:** The old one is better.

**Hon Mr Conway:** We have heard, I say to my friend the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr Pouliot), from some 86 groups, ranging from prospectors to mining companies to tourist developers to a number of other individuals well known to the member. We are at the present moment reviewing those submissions. It is my plan and my hope to have a new Mining Act before this assembly later this year.

I can assure my friend that we are going to make every effort to accommodate the very constructive criticism that the discussion to date has provided and I look forward to his ongoing interest and to the interest of all members when that legislation is introduced later this year.

**Mr Campbell:** Given what the minister has said, can he advise the House as to perhaps when in the future the Mining Act will be introduced?

**Hon Mr Conway:** I will not say "in the early fall" because I know that excites my friends opposite, but we are making very good progress. I want to say most sincerely that the consultation has provided very good feedback. I myself participated in a number of public forums in northern Ontario over the course of this winter. I want to say to my friends opposite that it would be my hope and my wish to have that new Mining Act before the assembly during this current sitting.

#### TEMAGAMI DISTRICT RESOURCES

**Mr Wildman:** I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources related to the

arrest of several people on the Goulard Road near Temagami yesterday and the complete failure of the government to resolve this matter related to land use in the Temagami area.

The minister is quoted as saying that these people, these protesters, could have helped resolve matters by agreeing to be represented on the Temagami Advisory Council. In light of that, can the minister explain how he expects anyone to have any faith in the Temagami Advisory Council, considering that the council has accomplished absolutely nothing of substance in developing the so-called model management area in the full year since it was formed?

**1500**

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** I am quite surprised that a member from northern Ontario does not really understand this issue. In fact, if he were to understand it, he would know that this government is doing more to develop model management. By going forward with our class environmental assessment, we are looking at how the future of the forests will be attended after the class environmental assessment has taken place.

We are doing things that have never been done before. The area we are talking about, as the member well knows, is an area that has been harvested for many years. We moved people out of an area to make a true wilderness park to the north, and in order for this to take place moved them into an area where it was accepted and licensed, and when we had some difficulty, structured the Temagami Advisory Council to set up a model management for an area that had some question about how it should be harvested.

I am sure the member would understand that when those people decided to blockade instead of being part of the model management, it is a big disappointment to me. It should be to the honourable member for the same reason, that we are trying to do things in the forestry direction that have not been done before, manage our forests responsibly, and we can only do it if people participate on that side, which I have asked them to do.

**Mr Wildman:** The minister seems confused. At one point he says he is waiting until after the EA to develop the model management approach, the environmental assessment of forestry, but at the same time he says the advisory council is doing something. Can he explain what the advisory council has done in the last 12 months to address the concerns of the aboriginal people in Temagami, what it has achieved with regard to environmental assessment of the Red Squirrel road extension, and what it has achieved in

dealing with industrial restructuring in the Temagami area so that we can indeed have a model of sustainable resource development? What has it done in those three areas?

**The Speaker:** The member has already placed three questions. Minister?

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** The member is suggesting that I do not quite understand what he is saying. Sometimes that is very true; I have difficulty with what he is saying. What I brought into focus here was the determination of this government to enter a long-term direction of where we go with our forest, sustainable yield; that the class environmental assessment is one facet and the addressing of the Temagami Advisory Council is another one.

Good things are happening out there in the sense that we are trying to bring people on side to be able to address the question. We have done that in these areas. Is the member suggesting, by any measure, that Dr John Daniel from Laurentian University is not doing the job? Is that what he is suggesting? I tell him that that was a good appointment, as was Dr Baskerville, as we are doing self-examination on how we manage the forest, and opposition members just cannot keep up to the speed—

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. I am sorry I cannot allow the member for Algoma to answer that question. New question, the member for Leeds-Grenville.

#### ESCAPE OF PRISONER

**Mr Runciman:** My question is to the Minister of Correctional Services. The people of this province are more than a little concerned about the escape of Frederick Merrill from the Don Jail last Wednesday. As we know, Merrill is one of the most dangerous criminals in North America, with a long history of sexual assaults, beatings and murder. He has also escaped from a number of American prisons over the years and made two previous escape attempts from the Don Jail.

Can the minister tell the people of Ontario why a man with this kind of background was able to escape from the Don Jail in Toronto?

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** I would like to thank the member for his question. Obviously, there is great concern in our ministry and among Ontarians throughout the province about this escape that happened last week. Immediately upon that escape, our day shift people stayed and contributed to the search in the valley. Also, we

sent an investigator to the scene immediately, and I am awaiting his report.

**Mr Runciman:** As usual, we do not get much of an answer. The people of Ontario are wondering why security was so sloppy that this dangerous and violent man, with a long history of jailbreaks and jailbreak attempts, was able to escape from a correctional facility in Ontario.

Can the minister tell us if he is satisfied with the level of security that was present when Mr Merrill escaped, and if not, can he tell the House what specific steps have been taken to ensure that this kind of escape will not happen again?

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** I would like to give a little background to the member with regard to his question. As the member will know, this is the first escape from this facility in more than 30 years. It is one of the most secure facilities in Ontario. The member should also know there was a one-on-one supervisory situation there, and our initial investigation shows that this was an extraordinary escape, as the member knows, from a roof five storeys high, through barbed wire and razor wire.

This particular exercise area on the roof of the Don Jail, five storeys high, qualified to all the criteria of our maximum-security areas that, as I have said before, has not seen an escape in 30 years.

#### TRANSIT SERVICES

**Mr Callahan:** I have a question for the Treasurer. My riding in Brampton presently has limited am and pm service to Toronto. The difficulty that exists is that when it could have been done for \$10 million, the former Conservative government failed to doubletrack the rail between Brampton and the Bramalea connection. It now would cost \$100 million.

I was a bit shocked at a recent transit seminar to discover that the fuel tax the Conservative government presently collects from Ontario alone is \$1.7 billion. Of that, \$820 million is spent in Canada, without one nickel being spent in Ontario. I wonder if the Treasurer can confirm those facts as being accurate.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Actually, the question stands by itself as an extremely informative contribution to the deliberations in the House.

**Mr Callahan:** I am not sure if that is a yes or a no, but by way of supplementary—

**The Speaker:** Are you going to try a supplementary?

**Mr Callahan:** —if I am correct and if these facts are accurate and if those moneys could be

shaken out of the federal Conservative tree, would those moneys be limited in their spending ability to simply underpasses or could they be used for the doubletracking that is so necessary to give the people from my riding not only more than just limited am and pm service but also service to the SkyDome, which I understand they will not have?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I think the honourable member is very sensible and well within his rights to suggest through this House that the Minister of Finance for Canada should allocate the funds that he receives from Ontario by his gas taxes, which we all know are higher than ours here. We all also know that he does not build any roads at all, and I think it would be quite appropriate if he doubletracked the honourable member's transit service.

1510

#### ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED

**Mr Morin-Strom:** I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services with regard to vocational rehabilitation services in Ontario. This being National Access Awareness Week, one would have hoped that the minister would have made initiatives that address some of the serious concerns the disabled have with respect to long waiting lists and lack of services in assisting them to get jobs through vocational rehabilitation services. Waiting lists in the province are typically anywhere from four to eight months long; in some places higher, northern Ontario particularly. In Sudbury, it is over 27 months. In Sault Ste Marie, the waiting list is over 30 months right now.

What has the minister done, with respect to this issue that was brought to his attention a number of months ago, to see that those services are made available to the disabled?

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** As a result of that situation having been brought to my attention, my regional office in Sudbury has allocated one additional staff person to that office to help reduce that load and has reallocated funds from its budget to the Sudbury office to help reduce the load. That has happened since the last issue was raised.

**Mr Morin-Strom:** The communities in Sault Ste Marie have been pressing on this issue, and the minister received a number of letters back in late January and early February demanding a change that would impact on the waiting list in our community. The minister has not responded to those letters and has not done anything about the waiting list which still remains today at more

than 30 months for the disabled in Sault Ste Marie.

Will the minister make a commitment that the disabled will get access to those services in a reasonable time from today?

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** Part of the difficulty is defining exactly what a waiting list is. In a number of cases, my office in Sault Ste Marie has indicated to me that the residents of that community have been seen on fairly short notice with respect to their original assessment. The difficulty then follows with respect to the time that it takes to actually get a program in place, and that depends to a large extent on when the assessment is done in the calendar year or in the school year when some of these programs are made available.

I will certainly look into the observation that letters have been received by my office and not responded to. That certainly is not the normal practice in my office, but I will look into it.

#### ACCESS TO INFORMATION

**Mr Sterling:** I have a question for the Minister of Government Services. We have recently heard about a case whereby an official in his ministry forwarded to a patient in the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre detailed plans of that establishment. The psychiatric establishment in Penetanguishene is an establishment for the most dangerous individuals in our society. It includes many people who have committed murder and many people who have committed sexual, violent crimes.

Can the minister explain to me why his ministry would forward to an individual in that institution detailed plans which he may have used or other patients may have used to escape from that institution?

**Hon Mr Patten:** The member for Carleton, of course, talked about sending detailed plans of that establishment. First of all, it was not detailed plans of the establishment; it was in fact information related to some modifications, some reparations to windows in that particular institution.

The member refers to the individual in a certain way. I might remind him that the individual in that institution is not a prisoner. That individual is a patient and under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, we cannot refuse individuals who have the right to ask for information.

Given the situation that the member identifies, I would like to point out that I am asking my officials to review this total process in the event

that in some instances there may be information that might have something to do with security. In this particular instance, it was deemed that the information in no way could assist an individual to leave that institution.

**Mr Sterling:** The minister first states that it is not a criminal who is in the institution, that everyone is a patient. That is true. They are patients there because they are found insane in front of a court and are unable to stand trial for crimes that have been committed in our society. That is why they are patients. That is why they are in this very, very maximum security institution.

Second, the minister states that he cannot refuse under the freedom-of-information act. That is wrong. He can refuse if the security of the institution is in jeopardy. He has every right to refuse under an exemption under the freedom-of-information act.

What can the minister do to assure us that he will not be forwarding information to patients in the psychiatric hospital which will give them information such as how long it will take them to saw the iron bars off the windows? If that is not information which should not be shared, I do not know what is.

**The Speaker:** The member is now into a speech. The response?

**Hon Mr Patten:** The member asked the question, what will we do in the future? I have just said that I will be reviewing the requests where we feel there may be limitations that in fact may not serve the best interests of the security of the public. I will be doing this with my officials also in relation to the commissioner's office and with Management Board which has the overall responsibility for this particular policy.

#### PETITIONS

##### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Miss Roberts:** "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government of Ontario in its discussions with the Ontario Teachers' Federation on amendments to the Teachers' Superannuation Act has refused to allow an equal partnership between teachers and government in management of the pension fund, establishment of an acceptable contribution increase, benefit adjustments, equitable treatment of future surpluses and a satisfactory dispute resolution process,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to insist that the Treasurer of Ontario

negotiate with the Ontario Teachers' Federation towards an equitable settlement."

I have a petition signed by 58 persons who teach in my riding and, pursuant to the rules, I have affixed my signature to it.

**Mr Morin:** I have a petition signed by 25 people regarding amendments to the Teachers' Superannuation Act.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Ms Bryden:** I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, regarding Bill 162. It has been signed by 10 people and I have signed it myself. The petition says:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government to scrap Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act,

"Because Bill 162 contains the most significant changes to the Ontario system of workers' compensation contemplated for many years, and yet, as was confirmed through the public hearings on the bill, was developed without an adequate process of public consultation with the stakeholders; and

"Because Bill 162 represents an attack on injured workers and their families and all those people who have fought over the years to achieve fairness and justice for injured workers and their families; and

"Because Bill 162 will eliminate the current lifetime pension for lifetime disability and replace it with a dual award system combining a lump sum and actual wage loss award benefits, that has been rejected by injured workers, their advocacy groups, community legal workers and lawyers working on their behalf and by the trade union movement, since it was first proposed for implementation in Ontario by the 1980 Weiler report and the Conservative government's 1981 white paper; and

"Because Bill 162 virtually ignores the devastating critique and recommendations of the Majesky-Minna task force report on vocational rehabilitation that was submitted to the Minister of Labour and suppressed by the Liberal government until April 1988; and

"Because Bill 162 gives legislative form to the unacceptable and reactionary policy of restricting access to supplement awards announced by the Workers' Compensation Board in 1987; and

"Because through Bill 162, injured workers are made subject to increased discretionary power at the hands of the Workers' Compensa-

tion Board and made subject to ever more intrusive and demeaning assaults on their dignity, their privacy and their right to fair and just treatment."

I am pleased to present this petition.

1520

#### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr Jackson:** "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government of Ontario in its discussions with the Ontario Teachers' Federation on amendments to the Teachers' Superannuation Act has refused to allow an equal partnership between teachers and government in management of the pension fund, establishment of an acceptable contribution increase, benefit adjustments, equitable treatment of future surpluses and a satisfactory dispute resolution process,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to insist that the Treasurer of Ontario negotiate with the Ontario Teachers' Federation towards an equitable settlement."

This is signed by the staff at Maplehurst Public School in the great riding of Burlington South. It has my signature and support.

**Mr Dietsch:** I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to 31 May 1982 have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"This proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

I have affixed my signature to the petition.

#### HOME CARE

**Mr Owen:** I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We support the expansion of home care and visiting nurses services as the most cost-efficient mode of health care delivery. We therefore want our government to adequately fund the Victorian Order of Nurses."

It is signed by 304 residents of my area and it is signed under my signature.

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Mr Kormos:** I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We care about injured workers. We protest the Minister of Labour's proposal to change the law that would take away injured workers' rights to permanent disability pensions when they are permanently disabled; that would do almost nothing about the miserable compensation of existing injured workers and their widows, and that would leave the injured workers of the future worse off. Workers who are killed or injured in their work deserve much better treatment than this."

It is signed by Gerard Bisson of Welland and five others; I have signed it as well.

## TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr Reyecraft:** I have eight petitions signed by 122 individuals in the riding of Wentworth North. The text of the petition is exactly the same as that of petitions read by the member for Elgin (Miss Roberts) and the member for Burlington South (Mr Jackson), and I have attached my signature.

I have four other similar petitions, signed by 31 residents from Essex South, 40 residents from Renfrew North, 36 people from Hamilton Centre and one signed by 11 people from the riding of Brant-Haldimand, and I have attached my signature to all of those.

I also have two other petitions, one signed by 18 individuals from Brant-Haldimand and the other signed by 12 people from Scarborough East. The text of the petitions is the same as that read by the member for St Catharines-Brock (Mr Dietsch) this afternoon, and I have attached my signature to those.

## NATUROPATHY

**Mr Daigeler:** I have a petition signed by some 50 residents of the Ottawa-Carleton area. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

## TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr Allen:** "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government of Ontario in its discussions with the Ontario Teachers' Federation on amendments to the Teachers' Superannuation Act has refused to allow an equal partnership between teachers and government in management of the pension fund, establishment of an acceptable contribution increase, benefit adjustments, equitable treatment of future surpluses and a satisfactory dispute resolution process,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to insist that the Treasurer of Ontario negotiate with the Ontario Teachers' Federation towards an equitable settlement."

I have four petitions that read in similar fashion, signed by 63 persons who teach in my riding, and I have affixed my signature to each of them.

**Mr Poirier:** I have four distinct petitions pertaining to the Teachers' Superannuation Act. They are signed by 95 people, and I have affixed my signature. They are addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

## MOTIONS

### COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Hon Mr Conway moved that the standing committee on general government be authorized to review the final progress reports to the Minister of the Environment of Inco, Falconbridge, Algoma Steel and Ontario Hydro on acid rain abatement programs on 15, 22 and 29 June 1989.

Motion agreed to.

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon Mr Conway moved that notwithstanding standing order 2(a), the House shall meet at 1:30 pm on Thursday, 8 June 1989 and that Mrs Sullivan and Mr Ballinger exchange places in the order of precedence for private members' public business.

**Hon Mr Conway:** I would like to very briefly speak to this just so all honourable members know that this means that, by agreement, we will not be sitting on Thursday morning for private members' public business.

Motion agreed to.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILL

#### FORT ERIE COMMUNITY YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION ACT, 1989

Mr Haggerty moved first reading of Bill Pr18, An Act respecting the Fort Erie Community Young Men's Christian Association.

Motion agreed to.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Hon Mr Conway:** Before I call the first order today, which will be the 11th order, second reading of Bill 5, I want to indicate to members in the House that the House leaders met earlier today. We have decided that for the next few days the business of the House shall be the second reading of Bill 5, An Act to amend the Education Act, the heritage-language legislation, after which we will move on to the insurance legislation, Bill 10, just so members know that we have got some business planned for the next few days. With that brief introduction, Mr Speaker, I call the 11th order.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

#### LOI DE 1989 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR L'ÉDUCATION

Hon Mr Ward moved second reading of Bill 5, An Act to amend the Education Act.

**Hon Mr Ward:** Briefly, members will know that last October the government announced its intention to bring forward an amendment to the Education Act to make the provision of heritage-language classes mandatory in all school board jurisdictions in this province upon the request of the parents of 25 qualified students.

Members will know that over the course of the past several years heritage-language classes have grown very extensively in this province. In 1987 alone over 90,000 students benefited from instruction in heritage-language classes offered by some 72 board jurisdictions in this province.

The legislation we are proposing today comes about after a great deal of public discussion, an extensive period of consultation on the basis of a proposal that was put forward by the government House leader during his time as Minister of Education.

I look forward very much to the comments and input of the opposition critics during the course of this debate. I understand there is some sense that this bill should be exposed to some committee hearings. I would be more than

willing to ensure that is done. I also understand that the standing committee on social development would be interested and possibly available to consider the bill next Monday, and at the conclusion of the debate I will ask for unanimous consent to waive standing order 63 so that in fact the discussion can take place at the social development committee on Monday if the committee sees fit.

1530

**M. R. F. Johnston :** J'aimerais dire quelques mots sur cette question importante des langues d'origine en Ontario.

But first I would like to say that my remarks may not be as short as the bill is. The bill is essentially one paragraph, but in that paragraph there is an enormous amount of history, which I would like to dwell on a little bit; there is an awful lot of politics, which I also want to talk about, and there is some implicit need to discuss pedagogy. I want to use this opportunity as a chance to do those things.

First, I think it is appropriate that on behalf of my party I am the one who rises to speak on this, not just because I am the Education critic but because this is essentially the Scarborough amendment. This is the amendment which says to recalcitrant boards, namely Scarborough, that they should necessarily have to participate in heritage-language programming in their schools and provide those programs to the various communities that request them.

The reason it is appropriate that I should rise is not only that I am the member for Scarborough West but also that since 1981 I have been in opposition to the Scarborough Board of Education's point of view on heritage languages and I have futilely tried on a number of occasions with various groups, the Greek and Chinese communities in my riding especially, to get that board to see the light of day and to move, as others have, to increase the heritage-language prospects in the education system there.

I am happy that this day is here and that this fall, after we have dealt with this legislation, the board in Scarborough will have to respond to requests that come forward from groups of parents of children of Chinese, Macedonian, Lithuanian or other descent and provide programming for them within the school structure and with financing, for the first time.

Scarborough has provided programs. I think it is really important to know that. I am not saying that Scarborough has said that these programs cannot take place in the schools. In fact, as I recall from the presentations that were made

before one of our committees over the years, there are something like 30 languages being taught in 297 classes in Scarborough—at least, there were at that time, a year and a bit ago—but they were taught by the communities themselves. They were taught, often using school facilities but not as part of the government's heritage-language programming and the funding that has been available since 1975-76.

It is also important to say that since I have been elected, this issue has been of importance to me on a larger scale than just the Scarborough amendment. This party has had a history since the mid-1970s of pushing very hard for a major change in the way we look at language instruction in Ontario. I think that people who have sat in this House before us—Odoardo Di Santo, Tony Grande and others—have taken a major role in moving forward the public debate around how we teach languages in Ontario. In some ways I find my duty today is to make sure that what we have here is not the end of a long process but merely one small stage dealing with one small matter, which is the Scarborough amendment, but that we look at it in the context of a much greater need to re-evaluate the role of language instruction in the province and to make sure that a process is under way which allows us to do that.

Let's just look at the history of this a little bit. Private members' bills have come forward in this House over the years, in 1982 and 1987. In 1987 we held public hearings here just around this time of the year on Mr Grande's bill, Bill 80. Both his bill and his predecessor's bill, put forward by Mr Di Santo in 1982, received the support in principle of Liberal members of the House.

In Mr Di Santo's time that meant that the opposition parties agreed and the governing party disagreed. Mrs Stephenson, as members may recall, was Minister of Education in those days and talked about the extension of heritage language as a balkanization process within our educational system. I will come back to that as we come forward.

In 1987, in a period of minority government just prior to the last election, the governing party—the Liberal Party at that time—and ourselves gave support in principle to Mr Grande's initiative under Bill 80 and it was referred out to the standing committee on social development, of which I was chairman at that time. The government had no particular policy of its own at that stage, as may be recalled. This brings me to the question of the politics of these things.

**Hon Mr Conway:** You were such a good chairman. You were so balanced.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** The government House leader played such an eminent role at that time in these matters that I think it is important to review exactly how this tiny amendment has come before us today.

Mr Grande's bill came closer and closer to actually being dealt with by the social development committee and our hearings were being established for 11 June 1987. The first hearings were to be held on that day. What should happen but on the Monday of that very week the government House leader, who is now checking an old Hansard to make sure I am correct, introduced a yellow paper. The colour was auspiciously appropriate for a number of reasons.

**Miss Roberts:** Bright, cheery, forthright.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** "Bright, cheery," etc. "Forthright" is going too far, but bright and cheery it is. Within the document that was put forward, which by the way was called, "A Proposal for Action"—I found that quite delightful at the time and especially over the next two years when no action took place on Ontario's heritage-languages program. It prompted a number of proposals, most of which have now been acted upon by the government in recent times. All are very limited in scope and the key element within them being the notion that perhaps these programs should be made mandatory and all boards should be required to participate.

This was brought forward at the same time as the committee was about to try to deal with Mr Grande's bill. Mr Grande's bill did not deal merely with the matter of the Scarborough amendment and some extra assistance in terms of training and other kinds of matters. It talked about some very fundamental principles about language instruction.

**Mr Reyecraft:** I do recall a difference.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** Yes, the government whip also played a major role at the time. I have the Hansard here and I would be very happy to bring it forward and some of his astute questioning of witnesses as we go through this bill.

But Mr Grande's bill dealt with issues of transitional instruction of people in their own languages. It dealt with integrating the heritage-languages programs within the school day. In fact, it raised fundamentally important questions for us at this time in our history around what the role of language is in terms of education.

Unfortunately, the government yellow paper, dealing in a much more limited fashion, curtailed the debate. It basically said that even though the government had accepted in principle Mr Gran-

de's bill just a few weeks before, that it in fact wanted to move the discussion into this much more limited approach.

**Hon Mr Curling:** Broader.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** The other member from Scarborough opposite tells me that it is broader. In fact, it is not broader. I will read the limited points of view if the members want the embarrassment of them being read out. I am told to dispense by the parliamentary assistant because he understands that these only deal with such things as training and other kinds of matters and do not deal with fundamental questions about the status of heritage language.

What the government did by putting out the yellow paper at that time and suggesting that it wanted its responses back by September of that year so it could take some action very quickly—of course, it did not take action at all, we know, until very recently and in the limited fashion it has—was move the debate into this more restricted notion, in my view a very bad concept in educational terms.

**1540**

The other day I was reading a quote by a famous British politician who was talking of politics. He said the following. He was referring to some members. He said, "Call them the mules of politics: without pride of ancestry or hope of posterity." It strikes me from time to time that government, not just this one but many governments, are, in fact, mules. They have very little notion about either the history of politics and where we come from and, in concepts, where we are going and what we are speaking to in large terms.

Surely in the 1970s and 1980s it was the ideal time for governments here to reflect upon our education process and its appropriateness to our new demographic reality. I just want to tell members about some of the things which people came before us to tell us in the 1987 hearings. Rabbi Witty was here. He told the committee that people from over 128 countries live in Ontario, that 80 to 90 languages have come with those people as part of their cultures, and that we offered, in our heritage-language courses in Ontario at that time, 62 or 63 different languages that were being put forward.

That changed reality over the last 40 years, and especially in the last 25 years, is something which I think we really need to reflect on in very fundamental ways when we look at our educational institutions and the approach we take to education. Not many groups have been doing this in profound ways. Instead, what we have had is a

kind of tinkering with programs that I think makes us mules. It allows us to reduce class sizes in grades 1 and 2 without knowing why we are doing it, to extend senior kindergarten without really thinking through what the implications are, and to only bring forward the Scarborough amendment in the face of an enormously changed reality of what our province is all about.

The board of education in the city of Toronto is one of the groups that has tried to come to grips with this issue over the years. As early as 1975, the board put forward a working group it had on multiculturalism. What it said has jarred me and made me really want to re-evaluate why I believe what I believe about heritage languages and its need for changed status.

It said the following: "The shocking recognition for the board of education of the city of Toronto is that within the space of a decade its cultural base has become incompatible with the cultural base of the society which supports the endeavour." I may have messed that up. I will look it up in a second. What they were essentially trying to say was that the board itself no longer reflected its community and that the programs and directions of the board no longer reflected that community; that the board was still operating on a presumption of a massively anglophone Toronto when in fact a very strong majority of people in the education system were now people whose first language is not English.

That reality so shocked them that they said, "We have to make our institution coherent with our society." Surely it is one of the great problems we have in this House: that the representation we have here does not reflect our society. The white Anglo-Saxon male, who is still predominant in this chamber, is not a reflection of what we have in our society. I do not want to go into the details about this particular institution, but if members think about how vital it is that our education system reflect the reality of our society, I think they can see why it is a little disappointing to somebody like me at the moment that the only government initiative on heritage language, which is long overdue, is to bring in the Scarborough amendment. It is not looking at it in the context of language policy in general and what this means in terms of where the province should or should not be going.

Over the years, I have seen a change in the way the Liberal government and the Liberal Party has looked at these matters. I was looking back over the quotes from 1975 and 1976 debates and the strength of opinion that was put forward by people like the present Minister of the Environ-

ment (Mr Bradley) and others at that time around heritage language. I found them interesting, but I found I did not even have to go back that far to find a very different perspective on heritage language than we are seeing now under this present government.

When I turn back to how it dealt with Mr Di Santo's bill in November 1982, often in private members' hour, the present Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon), when he was sitting on this side, would participate. He was a great person for being in the House at all times, loves this institution enormously and respects that hour very much. He participated, I thought, very eloquently about the whole question of language instruction. If I might just make a few quotes from the member just to indicate that. He said:

"The approach to language instruction in the last two decades in this province has been a disaster, in my opinion....

"One of the biggest changes in the last 20 years and a bit longer has been the immigration of people with other cultures and other languages into the community. We have not turned this to our advantage.... It has been a shame that many young people, in particular—not so many now, perhaps, as a decade ago—have not seen fit to keep up the knowledge of a second or third language and a knowledge and respect for their culture."

He talked in these terms as somebody who came from an area which he admitted was rural, was not the metropolitan area with the reality that I was talking about a few minutes ago for the Toronto Board of Education, but he attacked very strongly at that point Miss Stephenson's approach on this bill and the need to start looking at language instruction differently.

Now he had come through the system a little bit earlier than I had and had noted that language instruction was not that useful. I also recall my language instruction at the secondary level. I took German, French and Latin. I am pressed to give any kind of a quotation in Latin at this stage. I had one line in German that I use and have basically—

**Mr Reycraft:** Tempus fugit.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** Tempus fugit is perhaps the government's notion. On the other hand, tempus was standing still here for the last few days, as members may recall. We have shown, in fact, that we can defy the laws of physics here and make time stand still and not only be relative.

I would say that if you look at the language of instruction—French as a core language subject—as it was in the early 1960s when I was in high

school and you look at the results today, it is my opinion that we have not made up much ground in terms of how that is being taught.

I would differentiate very strongly between that and our immersion courses and our extended French courses, which I think are showing some signs of success. I personally have some difficulties with the way immersion is happening because I see it becoming a very class-biased development in our society at the moment, where increasingly working-class kids may start off in immersion classes but very quickly drop out. It is the yuppie children who are going on.

In fact, I recently received a letter, which I was going to read into the record today but could not gain permission as yet from the person who sent it to me, from a person who is lamenting the fact that she felt compelled to withdraw her child from French immersion because of the biases she felt were presently in the system.

In terms of the effects in terms of pedagogy, there is little doubt that those people who do stick the route and stay in immersion or participate in extended French programs are doing well, whereas core French I think is just as successful now as it was with me in the 1960s, which is to say it is a disaster.

**Mr Pouliot:** It depends on the student.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** I disagree. My good friend the member for Lake Nipigon says it depends on the student. In point of fact, it tends not to have depended much on the student at all. That approach to using one class per week or whatever in French core has been shown to be an ineffective pedagogical tool which unfortunately we are still very much locked into and are not looking at other options for. I would suggest that is problematic.

1550

**M. Pouliot :** Je les suis en anglais, moi.

**M. R. F. Johnston :** Oui, nous sommes au courant des capacités linguistiques du député de Lac Nipigon, et c'est formidable. Seulement, je crois que le député a appris son anglais dans les mines de l'Ontario et non pas à l'école. Mais ça, c'est une autre histoire.

**Le Vice-Président :** Bien sûr, le député de Scarborough-Ouest va faire son discours par l'intermédiaire du vice-président de l'Assemblée?

**M. R. F. Johnston :** Oui, il m'est difficile de répondre aux commentaires de mon collègue, qui est assis derrière moi, si on peut dire.

This brings me to the question of why our province is so stuck on language at this point. Why is it doing so little on it?

I remember distinctly the presentation before the committee by Dr Cummins from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education who, of all Canadian researchers, has done the most in terms of language and its role in education. I remember his talking about the pedagogical reasons for moving, talking about how other provinces have done it, giving us all sorts of information that seemed to me to be crying out for a major study by the government, a major process to be developed to get people to look finally at the role of language.

I think it has to be said that the information that seems to be out there in terms of language is that if you maintain your maternal language at the same time as you are learning English, you probably have a much greater capacity in both languages and in other subjects. That says to me that is something we need to build on.

I was reading the other day some remarks by Noam Chomsky from his essays on language and politics. He made some very interesting points on this that really need to be thought through by our society at this point, because he linked pedagogical concerns with notions about how we overcome racism and how we overcome our fear of other groups and bigotries that have gone on for so long in our society in the past through the ignorance of our societies. He made some wonderful comments. I would like to refer to one or two, if I might.

He said: "I think there is fair evidence that a child can develop a native command of several languages with no difficulty if he is presented with each language in a particular situation. There are overwhelming similarities that unite the human race as a species and the varieties exist within minor variations, the depth and specific character of which it is possible for us to understand."

He basically was saying that certainly there are differences among us, but if you actually start to learn language and the nuance of language and, as one great figure said, language is the dress of thought and is so important to our makeup that you then start to dwell not on the differences but on those things that link us and make us more understandable to each other.

When you look at society today and the comments I know the Premier (Mr Peterson) has made around racism and problems of lack of tolerance in our society today, you say that perhaps we have some tools here that could be enhanced. Yet all we can do is take this one tool and say that outside of the school day, on weekends, all boards now must provide it if there

is a certain number of parents—we can quibble over whether that should be 20, 25, 13 or 15 as it is in some jurisdictions—that certain number can access the program.

I do not think that deals with these fundamental questions about what the role of education should be. I think it is important to understand that other people are doing this differently and that we have things to learn.

Before the committee, we learned from Dr Cummins and others about what is happening in western Canada. I think we pride ourselves on being very progressive in this province. Yet if you look at this particular issue, you really have to look at places like Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba in terms of initiatives that have gone much farther than we have dared.

I see the minister shaking his head, but in this province you can instruct only in either of the two official languages. It is illegal under the Education Act to instruct within the school day in a language other than English or French.

In Alberta, they have a provision in their act for instruction in languages other than English. It is permissive. The decision to implement the program requires board approval, but the process is a very easy one. What has developed in Alberta is not just heritage language within the school day, as became the big issue in the Toronto Board of Education a number of years ago, but bilingual schools. I do not mean French and English bilingual schools; I mean Ukrainian and English, Arabic and English, Hebrew and English bilingual schools.

The studies that have been done of these experiments, which are now many years old, have shown that the quality of education these kids have received is higher than the quality of education of kids who are not in bilingual schools and higher than the quality of education in Ontario. Yet—I turn to the member for Middlesex (Mr Reycraft) at this point and remind him of a couple of his quotes and questions—as to the focus by Liberal members on the committee looking at Mr Grande's Bill 80, when this information about what was taking place in western Canada was brought forward, and I would say I thirsted to know how it worked, why it worked and how we could use it, the comment was always:

"Well, how many languages are there? Surely there are only two, three or four languages that are being used in Alberta. What would we do in a place like Toronto where there could be 70 or 80 languages that there might be a demand for? How

would be possibly handle this within our school system?"

Although this is a valid question, it should come—

**Mr Reycraft:** I'm just waiting for the answer.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** There are answers and I am going to deal with some of them today, you will be happy to know.

I am to speak to the Speaker, he is saying as he beckons me with his finger. Always a pleasure, sir. Through you, to the honourable member, I would say the question being asked, although a legitimate question, was fundamentally no different in its type than the questions raised by the Scarborough Board of Education before that committee. It was logistics. It was not to do with the principle of whether the concept of a bilingual school was a good concept or as to whether the concept of the language of instruction was a good concept.

Whenever the matter of even Mr Grande's limited version of language of instruction, which was for a transition period, was raised, the question of focus was always on, "How long is this transition period for?" rather than, "Do we accept the concept that language of instruction other than English or French is a useful pedagogical tool, something we should be looking at and investigating further?"

Reviewing Hansard these days, I think we missed a wonderful opportunity. I really think we were coloured by this yellow document that was out there and did not follow up the way we should have.

What is taking place now in Toronto is there are some schools that have only two heritage languages being taught in the schools, some only one, some as many as seven or eight. But nobody who has come before the committee has ever suggested that every local community school has to be able to provide all eight as languages of instruction in that school. No one has ever suggested that, and the people who came before our committee were careful to always say: "That's not what we're after. We want to be reasonable, but how do we deal with the logistics of this matter?"

They were not the kind of people who were trying to push this to extremes. We have the opportunity now in the city of Toronto, it seems to me, to carry out those experiments in Chinese. We have two schools in the city of Toronto now where in fact a majority of the children are Chinese and the only other major language involved is English, where experiments in

bilingual education would be wonderful things to undertake at this stage.

A permissive amendment to the Education Act, going further than this one does, would have been really a welcome thing at this stage. The minister knows that the Toronto Board of Education wants to experiment with bilingual education, that it has done a substantial amount of work on how it could do this within its school board and that it would take the responsibility for that initiation.

It strikes me that a much more positive move at this stage by the government would not be just the Scarborough amendment of finally mandating Scarborough in with everybody else, but would be to say also: "Here's a permissive next step. Here's something we should be looking at, because we know it's working in Alberta and we know it's been working in Saskatchewan."

1600

I remember somebody came before the committee and suggested to us that in fact in the Quebec system, for a transitional language of instruction, all you need is 13 students to be able to provide that at this stage. It is not as if this has not been suggested in prior times.

I quote here from a report known as the Shapiro report. Shapiro is a man who became the Deputy Minister of Education. His 35th recommendation followed these comments:

"Canada has two official languages, but in the complex cultural mosaic of Ontario a third language is often regarded as a community priority. Accepting both an appropriate caution for its impact on the very young and the special status of Canada's two official languages, the commission, nevertheless, believes that it is important to avoid the marginalization of minority cultures. In this respect, there are advantages to enabling students to be instructed in a language in addition to English or French for part of the school day. Therefore, the commission recommends:

"35. That the Education Act be amended to permit school boards to authorize the use in a school of one language other than English or French as a language of instruction for not more than the number of regular school hours devoted to the second official language."

That was in the Shapiro report. Again, how disappointing that in 1989, after two years of this yellow paper's existence, all we have is the Scarborough amendment. There has been no move on even this very sensible recommendation. As you will note, he said one other

language. It would have been a way of proceeding, of trying out the process.

At this stage, I want to raise the question that is often raised about the conflicts here with the other official language.

J'aimerais lire un petit rapport concernant la position de l'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario, présenté devant le comité par M. Serge Plouffe, qui était l'ancien président.

Il a dit ce qui suit : « L'apprentissage des langues ancestrales n'est pas et ne peut pas se trouver en contradiction avec l'apprentissage des langues officielles. Les langues française et anglaise jouissent de garanties constitutionnelles et juridiques au Canada et en Ontario. Le statut spécial qu'elles possèdent, fondé sur l'histoire de notre pays, ne devrait toutefois limiter en aucune façon les possibilités qu'ont d'autres langues de se perpétuer. »

Et il continue en disant : « La transmission de sa langue aux membres d'une nouvelle génération permet à un groupe culturel de garder vivant son patrimoine historique, son sens de solidarité et ses traditions. La société dans son ensemble ne peut que profiter de cette grande diversité d'expérience qui s'enracine dans les cultures et dans les civilisations du monde. »

It was a wonderful presentation Serge made that day, when he talked very warmly about the support that had been given the French community by the multicultural community with Bill 8 and how in reciprocity, in a sense, he was responding and saying that it was so important for us to move.

Il conclut en donnant une raison bien pragmatique de favoriser l'apprentissage des langues diversifiées, qui figure dans le discours du trône prononcé le 28 avril dernier : le gouvernement y exprime le désir que la province prenne une place de premier plan dans la société mondiale du XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle.

And he was right. He put his finger on exactly what the issue is here. Ontario is not what it was in the 1950s and we cannot be concentrating on an educational process that dwells on the past in that fashion. We have to be thinking not of what the reality is, even of the 1980s, in terms of what our demography is; we have to think about what Canada will look like in 20 years and make sure our education process makes itself relevant to the needs of the kids who are going to be graduating at the end of it.

What he is saying, as is so plainly obvious to me and to so many other people who presented before the committee in that year, is that we are moving into a quickly shrinking world where the

need to understand what is taking place elsewhere is going to be profound. The ability to compete with other nations is going to be very difficult and a great challenge for all nations, and he and others suggested Canada has a unique role to play in world affairs because of the nature of our immigrant society.

We have not bought into the melting pot myth of the United States. There is some evidence that especially the Hispanic population there is reversing that trend a little and is getting recognition for the status of Spanish in the United States, but in general they have moved to a straight anglo kind of view of the universe and have not fostered the kind of enriched multicultural communities we have tried to.

I think it is fair to say that we have not been consistent in our social policies and especially not in education when we start to consider how we are preparing ourselves to be different and able to compete in the next century.

One of the fundamental principles, and this brings me to pedagogy, of our education system, especially since the Hall-Dennis report, is concepts around child-centred education, concepts that are based not on the old notion that people can learn by rote and you can force people to learn by using the strap, the cane and those other old traditional things of another century, but are based on taking the child with the strengths the child has, whatever they may be, and then expanding that kid's capacities by saying, "Look, you have success here," and building on the success and then bringing them a world view which is based on where they come from.

Unfortunately, in my view it has not been implemented as fully as I would like to see it implemented in our education system. Although the rhetoric is often there, I am not sure that in the classroom it is always taking place. But that principle is in fundamental contradiction to what we are doing on language.

I would suggest we take a child who comes into the education system with a capacity to run faster or jump higher than his classmates and give that kid all sorts of extra assistance to make it to the Metro-wide events, to travel across the province, to be able to participate, and we build on that child's strengths. But if a child comes into our education system with something that is of pedagogical value, like another language, we do not build on that strength; in fact, we devalue the strength.

Prior to the beginning of heritage languages, we devalued it totally. We said: "It is not the

affair of the education system. You communities can do whatever you want to maintain culture, but it is not our educational system's approach."

With the beginning of heritage languages we said, "Yes, we will assist you with it as long as you do it outside of the school day, as you always have, in competition with all the other kinds of things young people want to do as part of their development, and we will help you pay for it."

Now we have moved this tiny amendment to say every board must participate in that process.

What we have said to thousands and thousands of children is that their language is not of significant value in the education system. What we have said to them is: "If you want to participate and try to maintain that key to what your nation, your culture is all about, you have to do it on your own time in competition with basketball, in competition with baseball, in competition with piano, in competition with gymnastics, whatever it might be that you are doing extracurricularly."

If we ask most kids who come from multicultural backgrounds, from my wife to the spouses of other people who are in this House and other people in this House directly, what choices they made and how hard it was on them to try to maintain their language, and how they felt demeaned and second class by that process, I would suggest to members that what we have done is build in a system which is incredibly discriminatory.

I think an argument was made before our committee, of which I would not care to use the language, which basically said that this policy was contradictory to our goals for multiculturalism, that in fact it was a punishment for children from ethnic families and that it needed to be reversed dramatically and given status.

**1610**

It is my view that in looking at this we need to say that when a child comes into kindergarten and speaks Italian better than he speaks English—and we know that one can learn how to speak a second language better when one has his first language well—that is the perfect time to enhance the child's status in that kindergarten class. It is just vital to do that. In many parts of this province, that can be done with groups of people, not just on a one-on-one basis.

The argument is often made that this would be balkanizing. I suggest to members that they think about that. The notion is preposterous, and Chomsky is right. What could be more alienating and more balkanizing than to force people to have their classes outside of the school system on

their own and away from all the other kinds of things they would do with their friends after school? How much better it is to say, "In the school system, this has value; in the school day this has value and is something in which all the kids can participate."

There were two young girls from the Orde Street Junior school here in Toronto and of German heritage—that is primarily a Chinese school—who came before the committee and sang songs for us in Chinese and Japanese. They also speak some French and are fluent in German. Their message to us was that they loved the fact that in the Orde school, where heritage languages are incorporated into the school day as the result of a decision of the Board of Education of the city of Toronto, they could participate with their Chinese friends in the heritage-languages programs. I think it is a way of unifying things.

There is little doubt there is really a very strong and negative reaction to this kind of concept. All one has to do is look at what happened in the Toronto Board of Education when it tried to bring an extended school day in and see the kind of reaction that came from teachers and the community. There is fear of this kind of thing. It has to be dealt with in ways that allow people to participate and to expose their concerns in meaningful ways. But up to this point all we have had is fear of moving on it. So all we have today is the Scarborough amendment and we do not have the fundamental discussion that really is required.

While our neighbours to the south may not think it is important to develop these other languages, and they think they can compete commercially in the next century on an even footing with those people who have a multilingual capability just because they happen to be Americans, I think we would be making a fundamental mistake if we followed that route. I suggest to the members that the present government's policy, even with a mandated heritage-languages program, is substantially no different from that kind of policy.

I think we really need to look at what is happening in Europe at the moment and contrast what we are doing and look at the potential in what we can do here. I have copies with me today of a number of protocols between the government of Portugal and other governments in the European Community. There are some fascinating things taking place there which I think we can learn from. Since the EC developed, of course, there have been an awful lot of migrant workers working in other countries whose languages and

traditions are substantially different from their own. Portugal has provided a large number of these migrant workers to places like Germany and France and especially Holland. In those three countries, there are now accords so that the children of Portuguese workers in France, Germany and especially in Holland have the right to be taught in their own language in the Dutch system. It is really phenomenal. It is a recognition of the cultural mosaic that is Europe and that we have within our own country. It is something we should really learn from.

There are few limits on the numbers that need to be involved. For instance, there are cultural exchanges and support documents produced by the Portuguese government to give to the Dutch authorities to help them in the pedagogy that is being used with the Portuguese children. There are exchange programs back and forth now between kids in bilingual schools in Germany as well as in Holland. I think if we ignore that development and what it is going to mean in economic terms, we are crazy.

How long can we survive or compete when that kind of co-operation is taking place and that kind of ethnic diversity is being maintained within that economic unit of Europe? How long can we continue as a small appendage to the United States in economic terms without making ourselves substantially different in what we can offer commercially to the world?

We have the crazy situation at the moment where a child who comes into the system speaking Greek is then not able to take it again until high school; has had a devalued language within our society from the period of kindergarten through to the end of grade 8 or grade 9, and then is expected perhaps to take it as a secondary language at the secondary level.

What we are learning from our university professors is that that person then goes on to university and is coming in with enormous language deficits. Although that person once started off with a maternal language, he or she has lost it in the process. The standards for entry into language programs at the University of Toronto and other places are being bemoaned by professors on the receiving end who are crying out to us, "These are kids who had a talent, who had an understanding of language."

I know there is always a reaction from people such as, "I had difficulty learning French. I had difficulty picking up a secondary language," as if it is an impossibility. The fundamental truth, of course, is that learning a language is probably one of the most complicated things we ever do

pedagogically. Most of us do it before we enter school. We learn most of the structures of how our language works long before we ever get into the educational process, formally institutionalized.

We know that small children can pick up two or three languages just like that. The problem, as Noam Chomsky says, is how you teach it. That is the problem or has been the problem over the years; also, the value you give it. Somebody came to me the other day and said, "What we really need to do, even in our immersion schools, is to make sure that French becomes the language of fun in the playground more than necessarily the language of total usage within the classroom." If you have people playing together in another language, they are much more likely to hang on to it than if you just have it in the rigid time setting of a class, even in an immersion situation. I thought it was a very telling and accurate kind of point.

Mr Speaker, I would suggest to you that the move by the government today does not change a concern that was raised by Dr Berryman before the committee two years ago. He raised the question of whether there should be a charter challenge about how we look at heritage languages and he basically said that this is not equal treatment of people as they come into the education system. He went on about it and he made the following comment: "As long as it remains a continuing education offering, there will exist an element of doubt as to the future of heritage languages in the school."

I think that is a really important point. We can make it mandatory now, but as long as it is primarily outside the school day and it is done by instructors whose quality control is not really governed by the legislation at the moment in the province, unlike other kinds of instruction, we are basically giving out a message which is two-edged. One is that everybody should be doing it and the other is that it is not of significance and maybe it will go away as the generations continue and we will not need this. Maybe there is an assimilationist underpinning of this kind of process. I am not asserting that this is the case, I am just saying that is definitely a message that can be taken out of our present policy.

1620

It is not my intention to go on for ever about this matter, but I think there are a number of things I still want to get on the record. One of the things the board of education's Working Group on Third-language Instruction did in March 1982

was to produce a document called Towards a Comprehensive Language Policy. I presume the minister has read it, but I also presume most members in this House have not. It may seem like the kinds of things I am talking about are wild and woolly and futuristic and not part of present reality, but it did a number of things which I thought were fascinating.

This was one of the aims they established: "In the short run, the aim of the third-languages policy should be to strengthen the present heritage-languages program in the elementary schools and the modern language program in the secondary schools. In the long run, however, the policy should aim at bilingual and trilingual programs as the only satisfactory way of implementing the educational principles which lie at the heart of this report." These principles are practically self-evident and I would like to read them.

"Language is so vitally related to thought, knowledge and social activity that it is not an overstatement to say that it is language which makes us human. Hence, language must be central to education.

"Although languages may differ in their usefulness in various contexts, such as the scientific, educational or political, they are equal in their humanizing and socializing capacity. Hence, from a strictly educational viewpoint, all languages are equal." I think that is a really vital principle which is not as yet accepted in our educational process.

"Every child has an equal right to preserve a vital link with his or her heritage. Hence, to recover or maintain the language of his or her ancestors is a legitimate expectation.

"To meet the educational needs of all students, the widest choice of language programs that is compatible with academic excellence should be provided. While mastery of at least two languages should be encouraged, each parent or student should be free to decide which specific languages the student will learn.

"At a time when many high school graduates experience difficulty meeting university entrance requirements in English, let alone in other languages, it is imperative to examine our language policy critically and to seek a better one."

Those are the principles on which they based their report. I think they are things which this ministry should be looking at. It should not be looking at them in isolation and it should not be coming forward with what I consider a deadend initiative on heritage languages. The terrible

message that comes out of this process is that when Mr Grande's bill was brought forward proffering some of the ideas which were supposedly accepted in principle by the parties in this House, the government came forward with the yellow paper which limited those concepts.

Now it has not only brought forward a paper which limits the concepts, but it has only implemented one small thing, the mandating of heritage-languages programs, so that Scarborough will participate. The danger of that is that it becomes the end of the discussion for goodness knows how long. That would be a tragedy, in my view.

It may be that most members of this House and some members of my own caucus, by the shrugs I am feeling behind me, do not share the views I am putting forward today, but to ignore the discussion of these views, to not establish a process by which these kinds of things can be discussed and need to be discussed is I think subjecting our education system to failure moving into the next century. We need a fundamental re-examination of where language plays a role in the education system. Anybody who looks at what we are doing has to say that all we have done is tinker with a system which goes back an awful long way.

There are those who will argue that to put heritage languages into the school day would only destroy an already overcrowded curriculum. This argument has been made a number of times. I believe it is a nonargument. You hear, perhaps from the same people, complaints when acquired immune deficiency syndrome education is brought in or a new education-on-drugs policy is brought in by the government, but in the end these things can be accommodated. It is a question, again, of priority.

Mr Fung from the Chinese Lingual-Cultural Centre of Canada made a very interesting point before the committee, because he was essentially saying that in his view, and I share it, talking about just adding curriculum is counterproductive and that we really have to talk about language in different terms. Members who deal with the education process in English will know that we talk about language across the curriculum now for English. How well that is implemented is another matter, but we do use that kind of concept now. I would suggest to members that concept needs to be broadened in terms of language, and this is what Mr Fung said to us at that time. He was very pithy. This gentlemen has a capacity to put things down very pithily.

"The integration of our program in the schools implies interdisciplinary immersion. Integration takes into account the entire content and orientation of a school program rather than being an aggregate of discrete subjects. Heritage-language teaching should therefore be introduced as an integral part of the educational system; that is, as a core subject of the regular school curriculum and not an appendage of the curriculum."

I think he is absolutely right. When I think of things like the add-ons on AIDS instruction, for instance, and making kids aware of what is going on around AIDS, it would be a wonderful opportunity to be able to use the maternal language the child had to do that instruction. It would make it relevant, give it a vocabulary which was not somehow back in the old country but very much to do with what is going on today and would be the kind of thing that could easily be incorporated into the school day in schools where there are enough kids to do this, of course. As everybody who participates in this tries to say, nobody wants to be unreasonable about how this would be done but merely to provide the capacity for it to be done.

Another thing that has been raised is the cost. I remember with Mr Grande's bill, after the government supported it, it then started to talk about the enormous cost that would apply to the education system at that point. It was Dr Katsaitis, who came before us from the Council of Ontario Communities, who dealt with that matter. He said:

"Just to give you another example, to put that \$30 million that made the headlines"—that is the \$30-million cost that was assigned to Mr Grande's Bill 80—"or almost headlines into perspective, the cost today of training a diplomat in Japanese or sending a civil servant from Ottawa to Japan for two years to be trained in Japanese is \$500,000. That is the estimate of the government of Canada. It would take just 60 diplomats to cover the cost of the program, even if this number were correct."

He then went on to quote the presentation of the Hellenic-Canadian Federation of Ontario to the Secretary of State—I think it was probably the year previous—in which it worked out, on the other side of this, the economic advantage to the province of having people come to maintain their Greek capacity. They estimated that if just 2,000 young people from Greek heritage maintained their Greek to a level which could allow them to participate at the diplomatic or commercial level internationally, it would be worth \$200 million to

Canada if that were the case. I think when we get into sort of the dollar side of things, there is a real danger of being pound foolish on this when we look at these matters.

The position I am putting forward from the New Democratic Party, a party which has been in favour of heritage language for some time, and I think will be reviewing our language policy in our upcoming convention next year to try to make it even more coherent than it already is in my view, is that we are not opposed to what has taken place today.

**Mr Jackson:** Less academic.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** "Less academic," is that what you said? Possibly less academic. What I really want it to be, I should say to the member for Burlington South (Mr Jackson), is more contextual. I think that what is vital here is again to make the link between what our society really is and what the education system should be providing in language. That is what I would like to see us, in the NDP and in this House, basing our language decisions on.

**1630**

Clearly, we are not opposed to the Scarborough amendment. It is something I have been working towards for a long time, and I am delighted to see it come along, even if there is great wringing of hands at the Scarborough Board of Education these days about it.

What I want, and why I want this to go to committee, is for people to be able to come in, on a brief basis, not to hold up this bill in any way but to talk directly to government members on the committee and, hopefully, to the parliamentary assistant, who, I gather, will be there for those hearings; to talk about what kind of process can be developed to make sure that the discussion around language policy does not end with this limited initiative, which seems to be all the government wants to do, because it was the zenith of what was proposed in that yellow paper; to say, "Let's start some kind of process by which all parties can participate," whether it is the ethnic communities, with their perspectives on how to give more status to language instruction or whether it is to do with boards of education or teachers' federations, which see enormous problems in regard to how this can be incorporated in our present educational structure.

Let's get back to first principles. Let's talk about why we think this is important, what the limitations should be in our education system around language, and move from there. Let's not think about this as an add-on program. Let's talk about a process that will be important to us all.

That is why we are referring this to committee, not to hold up the bill but to try to get that kind of process established, because I am very afraid that this is where it ends. If that is the case, then groups across this province, whether they are Finns from northwestern Ontario or Portuguese from Mississauga, are going to be hurt by it, but even more important, our society is going to be hurt by it.

I would like to conclude my remarks by quoting, finally, from a presentation made by Mr Garzon on behalf of the Spanish Speaking Parents Association. I think I gave his name a French pronunciation, but it is the best I can do at this stage. He made a wonderful comment at the end of his presentation to the committee, and I thought I would leave it with members in terms of the principle. He said the following:

"In ending our presentation, we would like to tell you the story of the late Lama Yeshi, a Tibetan teacher who died in a hospital in California in 1984. The clipping is attached for your perusal.

"You know that the Buddhists believe in reincarnation, so when Lama Yeshi died, he left instructions to say where he was going to be reincarnated. After the whole process, the child was found in a little village in Spain, a son in the family of a bricklayer.

"When they took the child to the Dalai Lama and said he could be the reincarnation of Lama Yeshi, one thing struck me. I would like to draw to your attention what is underlined on the second page.

"Zobi Repochi thought for a few moments and replied: 'Well, we cannot raise him completely traditionally. I expect that he will have three tutors. One will be from Spain and will be in charge of his Spanish studies, the second will be from one of the English-speaking countries, perhaps America, and the third will be Tibetan.'

"What a lesson these wise men from Tibet are teaching us about respect for what a new life brings to the world. That golden child is every child. We wish that all of you makers of laws remember that a child has a mother tongue, and with that language, a soul is being created and transmitted."

I think the line "That golden child is every child" is a profound statement which would seem to be at the base of what our education system is about: child-centred learning. I would suggest that in terms of language and the importance to a huge percentage of our young children in this province, more respect for their language as part

of what makes them golden is what we need now from this government.

**Mr Pouliot:** The member for Scarborough West (Mr R. F. Johnston) really need not fear about colleagues from his own party or other parties. When it comes to vision, when it comes to his critic's role, he better than perhaps anyone in this House has a sense of what the world will be in the 21st century and he at no time lets matters such as funding for a parallel system—because he is not talking about that—deter his wishes for what is really a better society.

The member tells us better than anyone that the world is getting smaller, that it does not suffice to expose someone to his or her culture; but if you are to give people the tools to grow and defend themselves in the society of tomorrow and of today to a large extent, you need those tools, those opportunities to be expanded.

It would be too facile to believe for one minute that what is being put forth so eloquently by my colleague demands a great deal of dollars. What we are talking here is about intent, spirit, something that really can be done step by step. It will need not only the collective effort, not only vision, but also a realistic approach that the world will indeed reflect what my colleague the member for Scarborough West has so eloquently blessed us with today with his comments.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr M. C. Ray):** Are there other comments or questions? Reply by the member for Scarborough West?

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** Do not get me started again.

**Mr Jackson:** It is my pleasure to respond to this government's initiative known as Bill 5. It is my pleasure to follow my colleague the member for Scarborough West with his most eloquent, thoughtful presentation. As always, he brings a tremendous amount of academic thought in challenging this House to take a global, a worldly, even a metaphysical afterworld view of the issues of child rearing and education, let alone of what language the spirit operates in.

However, the member has also eloquently laid down a record of what has brought us to this point in the debate on the sensitive issue of third-language instruction in this province. I thought, quite frankly, that he glossed over some of the initiatives of the former government dealing with the broader issues of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, of initiatives in race relations in terms of English-as-a-second-language instruction in this province.

That is well known to members of this House, so I will not take the precious time in this House

to go over those past factors which have helped to contribute to making Ontario one of the most tolerant societies and one of the most sought-after locations for families throughout the world to come and raise their families and to raise their future hopes.

Today, though, I do want to talk briefly about what I believe may happen with this bill. I bring to the debate not only the perspective of my political party, but also my personal perspective as a person who has been involved in public education for almost 11 years in this province as a public school trustee, someone who was elected publicly to understand the issues of education, to shepherd the resources that are provided through municipal taxation, to ensure that they are applied in the most effective manner possible to the benefit of the children we hope to serve. I bring that perspective.

I also bring the perspective of that of the child of immigrant grandparents. Members are aware that I have not only spoken in this House in what the federal government refers to as our second official language, but I have also spoken in the third language which my grandparents spoke and I had the privilege of listening to before they passed away, even though our Hansard records will not allow us to publish in those third languages.

1640

I am very proud of my Ukrainian ancestry and I am very proud of the fact that my mother speaks nine languages. So I have had a certain exposure to the importance of language within my family, within the greater community, which I still to this day operate, both within the church context and within the Ukrainian cultural community.

But I am having great and serious difficulties with this bill. I am having difficulties, as is my caucus, with elements of the mandatory nature of the bill, with the loosely termed guarantees of funding to ensure its academic efficacy, to ensure that it actually achieves the very things this government sets out that it hopes to achieve.

The member for Scarborough West has clearly enunciated the cause and effect with respect to when the program is provided, during the school day or after the school day, and the effect that has on the child we are hoping to serve. I will not go into that area, but I do share with him some of the concerns he has raised on that point. He has in the past as well raised the point of the resource and the implications which having this third language will have in terms of communication with the grandparent or other family member who has no access to other language training.

But I also have a concern with respect to the priority this has been given, not only in the context of education but also in terms of the greater social issues of our day. It was only recently that we were conducting a review of the Ontario French Language Services Commission and its mandate, and I raised the issue of why we would set a greater priority on making signs in liquor stores bilingual; that that was somehow more important than giving access to a woman who had been subjected to family violence or rape, to be able to express herself before the police and the courts in the French language.

So I ask the same question: If this government is prepared to commit millions of dollars or force municipalities to commit millions of dollars to ensure that children across this province have access to third-language training, to what extent is that in and of itself a greater priority than, say, the case of an ethnic woman, who comes to this country and who is the victim of assault, who is unable to communicate with anyone the trauma she is going through; or the case of ethnic parents, who are recently arrived immigrants, for example, who see a child going through convulsions and are unable to communicate effectively with a doctor? Where is the actual priority setting within the whole issue of a service to enhance third-language instruction?

If I might address it specifically, the bill itself is a very simple bill. It is complex in what it will achieve, but what is before this Legislature is just a simple one-liner: Bill 5 is called An Act to amend the Education Act, and it proposes to expand the powers of the Minister of Education to make regulations—and I quote all of what is stated in the bill: “requiring boards to offer programs that deal with languages other than English or French and governing the establishment and operation of such programs.” That is all the bill says.

What the minister would have us do is pass that bill and then leave completely open to the minister all the regulations necessary to implement such a broad and sweeping mandate. He makes certain assumptions. I was very fascinated by the statements he made in this Legislature on 24 October 1988. Both the member for Scarborough West and I had the opportunity to respond to his statements. He is talking about his Bill 5, and I found most interesting the statement that it is “a significant new commitment to multiculturalism in Ontario which guarantees access...and provides the resources.”

That is significant. It is significant because this government is prepared to guarantee a statement

to a group of voters in this province in terms of access, but it is not prepared to guarantee the issues of funding. In other words: "As long as it appears that we can provide the program and as long as we can set the mandate and force school boards into providing it, we have done our bit. But providing funds, well, we're a little fuzzy on that. We can't guarantee that."

No wonder school boards, teachers' federations, home and school associations and virtually every group responsible for the delivery of education in this province has suggested that this piece of legislation is inappropriately timed and inappropriately prioritized in terms of its implementation.

With this bill we would have these programs up and running in less than four months. There has been no serious discussion with respect to funding, and I will get into some of the questions that I have based on the minister's statements of several months ago. I am anxious for him to respond on the kinds of things he has been doing in the intervening period.

There has been concern expressed, and I am echoing the sentiments of several groups—too many to mention at this point—but many groups have expressed sentiments about the fact that the parents of 25 or more students can cause these mandatory programs to be implemented. But buried within the regulations, it is not just 25 children whose family is of the native language for which they are requesting a program be provided; it is any 25 children whose parents feel they should be instructed in a specific language.

There was the question in the minister's statement about the fact that these language classes can be offered by other boards but not by coterminous Roman Catholic boards. I hope that during the public hearing session the government might enlighten us a bit as to why we can have program exchanges between coterminous boards in some small instances but we cannot in this regard.

There has been the issue of these programs not being held during the regular day. But then in the regulations I am led to believe that the regular day as we know it, as defined by the Education Act, can be extended. As a former trustee, I can tell members from experience that there are a lot of problems with changing the definition of the regular school day.

There are problems for the students in terms of loss of access to extracurricular activities and loss of access to booster programming for subjects which are deemed to be weak by the parent, the teacher or the student. There is the

socialization loss of leaving school at a different time and loss of employment opportunities or of assistance to family businesses because of heritage language matters.

There is a whole series of questions about its implications for the students, but it has implications for the way schools are run. The regulations require that we do not have to have certified teachers, but there are certain considerations with respect to having certified teachers and board personnel resident at schools to take responsibility when programs are being offered.

In northern Ontario, this has implications for sending children home at off hours in snowstorms. It has implications for busing, loading and unloading and lost children. There is a whole series of implications that I would like to pursue in this regard when we get into public hearings.

There is the question of the lack of recognition of the situation with respect to busing. When we make mandatory programs that are not tied into the school or school areas and when we say that a program will be provided over the entire jurisdiction of a board, there can be 50 or 60 miles separating students who, according to this legislation, can demand that that program be implemented, as long as there are 25 of them.

We know the government has been reducing commitment to the operational costs of busing, with its grants. This is going to put on added pressure, not only in terms of the length of the school day because of transportation, but also in terms of the costs for transportation. In some cases, it will be completely impossible, let alone impractical, to provide it.

## 1650

On 24 October, the minister also talked about providing incentive funds for up to three years. Many groups have asked what is going to happen after three years. It is interesting to note that three years mysteriously falls after the next provincial election. We will never really be able to go to the public, to the school taxpayers of this province, with what will really happen after the third year. This government will have already tested itself at the polls and we may not get a straight answer with respect to how far that commitment will go.

Quite frankly, not just this government but a lot of governments suffer from the problem of starting programs and not sufficiently extending the necessary funding. As a trustee, I recall going through the whole period in the mid-1970s with the implementation of French immersion and the lack of funding for busing and the limited dollars. It was our government that provided those funds. I am trying to be fair when I suggest this is a

problem school boards have faced for many years, but nobody is sitting back and taking stock of the sum total of all these programs that have been entered into for very sound political/educational reasons. But then the funding seems to narrow, dry up or evaporate, and the local taxpayer is left to pick up the whole tab.

The minister said these incentive funds would be provided in consultation with other groups and agencies. It has been the practice, especially in education, when dealing with public funds that when third parties are brought to the table to determine how funds are spent, both provincially as well as municipally, publicly elected people are held accountable for that. I would like the minister to clarify just what is meant by the consultations as they are tied to funding and I would like the minister to tell us whether he intends to put that into regulations or entrench that in legislation.

The minister talks as well about incentive funds for research into strategies and information on heritage programs. In our recent round of discussions with respect to the select committee on education, we examined in detail a previous government initiative, the Ontario secondary schools review, Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions, the OSIS document as most people in education refer to it. We were quite appalled by what we now understand is a very limited review and evaluation of OSIS. We thought we were getting something far more academically based that would help us to determine how effective that program is going to be.

If the government suggests it is going to be providing research dollars to examine a variety of strategies and programs for heritage languages, I think it is appropriate the government clearly set out exactly what it expects to achieve with that for the dollars being spent. If all it is going to be doing is hiring a few more civil servants to do some number crunching, we do not need to do that. If it will lead to a serious re-evaluation of these programs, then it will be money well spent.

There is a lot of academic evidence to support the fact that when a child takes on a second or third language, there is some diminution, some loss of effectiveness, in the primary language. In this province, to my knowledge, that is still English and it still is in our schools. To what extent will we be evaluating, not how many programs we have in heritage languages, not how many nonethnic-based children are taking programs, but in fact what are the academic implications to a child who is now, in the

elementary panel, taking three languages? And if they are having difficulty with English, to what extent is the system able to cope with making sure their English-language skills do not suffer?

I would like that issue very much clarified, because I have a certain interpretation of what I believe is needed. I believe school boards have an interpretation of what those dollars should be applied towards. We should not leave to accident the results of heritage languages, implemented in accordance with this piece of legislation, in terms of academic outcomes.

I might digress for a moment. I just used the words "academic outcomes." It is interesting to note that when the government commissioned Radwanski to examine what was needed for Ontario's educational system, it said absolutely nothing about heritage languages. It talked extensively about major dollar commitments, multimillion-dollar commitments, to restructuring and enforcing certain practices in our schools. Nowhere is there any reference to heritage languages.

It begs the question as to why and where the priorities are being set with respect to other issues of significance, such as dropouts and the issue my colleague the member for Scarborough West talks about extensively, the equality of outcomes for low-income children in this province.

I have already addressed the issue of incentive funds for in-service and learning materials. I am having real difficulty with the fact that we are starting yet another program where we are going to have startup moneys for materials to publish workbooks for the children, and yet there is still, across this province, extensive use of dittos and textbooks that are outdated. The core programs in our schools require a major influx of tax dollars in order to make sure our regular program commitments are being upheld adequately.

Yet as we had with French immersion in the 1970s, we now will have with heritage language in the 1990s the issue of moneys for in-service materials. Of course, as I said earlier, we would have this available for September, to start programs in less than four months.

I am a little nervous about in-service. I am nervous about the concept of in-service, because we have two challenges facing these programs. The first challenge is the children we hope to serve. I think it cannot be underscored enough that in any given classroom with a single language that is being provided, we could have children from the ages of four to 14. You do not just in-service a teacher to deal with that issue of teaching to children who learn at different rates,

who are at different ages. You do not just do that with limited dollars and have it done by September, or the September following, or the September after that for that matter.

What does that say, quite frankly, about the government's declining funding commitment for in-service in the areas of substance abuse and family violence? Just take the example of some of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome education material and in-service that the Minister of Education announced. The government and the Treasurer announced dollar commitments for that purpose. Yet now, eight or nine months later when we investigate what is really happening, we find out the whole project has been offed over to TVOntario, with really nonacademic people doing in-service for our teacher-educators.

The government's track record in terms of in-service commitments has always been to generally talk about it, to throw a certain amount of dollars at it, not really making sure it is hitting the target. Then to further complicate this matter, the government says we do not necessarily have to have certified teachers teaching this program. Now we have got a tremendously wide range of teaching ability trying to deal with the issue of instruction to children who range between the ages of four and 14. I think the government is being naïve and optimistic if it thinks it can meet the real need as set out in its priorities.

**1700**

I will try to wrap up here. I have been a few minutes now. I too publicly announced my support that this go once again to a few days of public hearings, to ensure that some of the questions I and others have raised are clarified by the government and whoever is now in charge in the Ministry of Education from the staff level, and to clarify some of these points raised by the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, by the Ontario Teachers' Federation and the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, just to name three province-wide groups.

I support its going to the standing committee on social development because we have had no price tag put on this bill. We have had no price tag of provincial dollars and we have had no price tag of the potential cost to school boards. We need to listen to the government's sense of where its priorities are with respect to heritage language versus a series of other so-called priorities of this government within education. We have to deal with the adequacy of funding both in the short and long term. What is going to happen after three years? We also have to talk about equality

of access and the difference between rural boards and urban boards in this province.

I would like the minister, if he would, to indicate to us during committee hearings what work has been done to date by his advisory committee, if in fact one has been struck, who has been appointed to it and what progress, if any, has been made since October when he put the bill forward in this House, because clearly there is an advisory and implementation mandate for such a group.

I would also like the government to explain in some detail the context in which Ontario's new heritage-language initiatives, as a mandatory educational program, fit into the language needs of Ontario's first citizens. As we know, some are educated within school boards and some are educated outside school boards. But if we want to take a serious and even an emotional examination of our responsibilities as a society with respect to language, I can tell members that from a personal point of view the Ukrainian language is not in jeopardy of being lost in Ontario, but there are several native languages indigenous to our first citizens of this province that are in danger of being lost for ever. To what extent do we have a social responsibility to ensure those languages are not lost off the face of this earth?

As politicians of all political parties, as we run after votes and as we curry favour with, as the member for Scarborough West says, the unique and changing demographics of this province, instead of chasing those all the time perhaps we should take a hard look at those obligations we have not met fairly to date. I submit that our commitment to native-language education, in-service training for our native students and even post-secondary access for native children in this province has been abysmal. We could learn much from our neighbouring province of Manitoba, both in terms of inquiring about the situation and in reacting in a positive way to it.

Briefly, our party has expressed its concern for the mandatory nature of this legislation. Our party believes it should be an optional program. If it is adequately funded, there will be sufficient uptake for the program. If it is adequately funded, there will be sufficient interest on the part of the teaching staff, even in a climate of teacher shortage in this province.

Our party believes this kind of legislation should be more flexible. It is far too narrow in its present context. I might suggest as well that it is interesting that on the Sunday shopping issue the government very much adheres to the optional theory and not the mandatory theory, but

somehow when it comes to our educational institutions it can reverse itself. It does that similarly on the issue of flexibility.

We believe several ministries have responsibilities to ensure that language and culture have opportunities to flourish, opportunities to become more broadly accepted in this province, and that it should not be narrowly confined to the Ministry of Education. In fact, the Ministry of Citizenship and the Ministry of Culture and Communications both have roles to play in ensuring those mandates of tolerance and accessibility are enforced.

Within those other two ministries of Culture and Communications, and Citizenship, clearly there is a role for community-based organizations and there is a role for the family. It strikes me as odd that the government has taken away the role of the family and of some community groups from the development of language and strengthening language understanding within communities. I think it is unusual the government of this province can take the Lord's Prayer out of our schools and say that is a family responsibility, but then on the other hand it can say that heritage language is not the responsibility of the family, that it should be taken out of the family and run by the state. Increasingly, we are seeing this form of contradiction.

The third principle on which our party disagrees with the government is the principle of adequate funding. It is clear this government will open the doors to a program and then close the doors in three years, leaving municipalities, municipal ratepayers, home owners, business operators and commercial operators who pay commercial assessments holding the bag to pay for these very expensive programs. If what the 1970s taught us on French immersion will hold true of heritage language in the 1990s, you will start classes with 25 children in it and after a year or two years they will dwindle down to 18 to 17 to 15. People move. People get into academic difficulty and have to get out of the program. Programs become overly expensive. They become increasingly expensive because the per-pupil grants do not cover class sizes that are much smaller.

In conclusion then, our party is having great difficulty with this bill. We object to the mandatory nature. We agree with virtually every educational group in this province that has objected to the mandatory nature of these programs. We too will participate and listen intently during hearings by the standing committee on social development on this bill, and we

hope the minister will address some of the questions on which I have served notice in my comments today in the House. I ask that the minister and his staff respond to them.

Quite frankly, I would ask that the minister and his government, instead of coercing boards into programs, and this is just one more example of coercing boards into programs through the mandatory nature—the government should be focusing more on the equity of compensating school boards in this province.

**The Acting Speaker:** Are there any comments or questions?

**Hon Mr Ward:** Just very briefly, I was very interested in some of the comments put forward by the member for Burlington South, and quite frankly in some of the convoluted logic. On the one hand, I thought I heard him arguing that the role of the school should in fact be paramount in terms of religious doctrine, that that clearly was the fundamental obligation, a mandatory obligation of school boards, and yet language instruction perhaps should be left to the family. That, on the one hand, seems to me to be quite a contradiction and totally inconsistent with the position of this government and indeed, even prior to this government, of his party in terms of the promotion of a multicultural Ontario.

1710

Also, I do want to make some reference to the fact that the member seems to take some very serious objection to the fact that we have over the course of the past several years been mandating programs, programs that I believe are designed to ensure that we meet our obligation to ensure that each and every child in this province can reach his or her full potential, whether it be by providing additional opportunity for children in the primary grades to get the kind of individual attention and help they need; whether it be in making sure that every child in this province, regardless of social or economic background, can have access to an early childhood education program. We have done that over the course of the past several years and will continue to do that.

In terms of the funding, I suppose I can understand a little of the member's cynicism, the member having been a trustee during the previous administration, when perhaps programs that were mandated were not funded, but he will know full well that funding for this is provided and is adequate to ensure proper program.

**Mr Jackson:** I am glad the minister had a sensitive chord touched on the issue of funding. He has become a master at the optics of

educational funding. It was in his own jurisdiction that a mediated third-party settlement on the very sensitive issue of Bill 30 resolved what government moneys would be spent on schools that would both transfer and would be built anew as a result of Bill 30. Yet this minister stood in this House and announced an arbitrary change in the funding formula for the capital in schools across this province, affecting every member of this Legislature, where he arbitrarily adjusted downward the funding for schools from 75 per cent to 60 per cent; in his own backyard.

He took away dollars that he previously had committed while he was in minority government, while the sensitive issue of Bill 30 was on the front burner. It cost millions of dollars. It was his government that arbitrarily changed the method by which assessment was calculated. In the Sudbury Board of Education—the member is here—it was a \$7-million loss. In Toronto, it was over \$55 million in loss; an arbitrary adjustment.

So when I speak about the confidence that is being lost by the academic community, when I talk about the loss of confidence that the chambers of commerce have in a government which is about to change the pooling structure in this province and adjust the assessment rates for industrial-commercial assessment to make up the money which he says he is going to provide, he knows full well that the only reason he can make those guarantees is that he intends to get that money from industrial-commercial assessment across this province.

**Mr Allen:** It is with pleasure that I rise to address Bill 5 on behalf of the New Democratic Party and in the wake of the outstanding speech made by my colleague the member for Scarborough West. I thought his contribution to the debate was comprehensive. It laid out the history of this issue as it has been before us over a number of years: the legislation we have seen in terms of private members' bills; the responses that have been made to that by the government finally in the yellow paper that came in 1987; the hearings that were held subsequently, in which large numbers of people participated representing the 40 per cent of our population in particular in Ontario who do not derive from either English or French stock; and then the more recent arrival, of course, of this very small piece of paper which the honourable member who is the Minister of Education has put before us. It is a small distillation even of the yellow paper of 1987 and its chief feature is to make a program mandatory as distinct to leaving it optional.

It was the response of that 40 per cent of our population who represent the various ethnic communities in our province to an earlier Minister of Education of this government that precisely the problem of optionality was the one that had to be addressed. That was the grievous problem that they had with respect to the delivery of heritage-language programs in the schools. This bill obviously addresses itself specifically to that fact. When I say that was their outstanding response to a previous minister's initiatives or proposals which were never, of course, put in legislative form, it does not speak to the sum and substance of their real concern for heritage-language education in this province.

The previous speaker was very upset about the mandatory nature of this program. One would have to say that if boards large and small around this province had all responded well and substantially to heritage-language programming initiatives and opportunities that were there, in all probability this piece of legislation would not be necessary. I note that in some of the western provinces where there are heritage-language programs of various kinds, including immersion schools, the matter is dealt with in a nonmandatory fashion.

Obviously, there has been a much healthier, happier and fuller response in many respects in a province such as Alberta. Just to take matters not even touched or begun to be touched on in Ontario in the form of heritage-language instruction—whether on the extended-day or integrated-day basis—Alberta has moved in the field of full immersion schools in a number of languages. I cite, for example, the Ukrainian immersion school. Most of this is within the Edmonton public board, I would hasten to say. Immersion schools began in 1973 in Ukrainian, followed shortly by Hebrew and Yiddish, then by German, then Polish, then Chinese and Arabic as immersion school offerings. It is possible on an optional basis to move into a fairly rich texture of language education. However, that has not yielded the desirable results in Ontario and a measure of mandatory requirement is certainly appropriate at this point in time.

While one might have concerns about certain levels of capital funding, certain levels of education funding and the style thereof in the province by the present government, I do not think that they should be entered as substantial arguments against a well-amplified offering across all boards of heritage-language instruction. Least of all should it be used as an argument against what I would have hoped, and what the

previous speaker from our party would have hoped would have been a major initiative introducing and requiring, under certain circumstances, the use of third languages as languages of instruction in the classroom and teaching given subjects in those languages.

As a matter of fact, we have had a good deal of debate in this province and in this country in second-language instruction and we have begun over the last 15 to 20 years to have a substantial debate on the question of third-language instruction. In fact, in the area of second-language instruction and in particular with respect to the techniques of French immersion teaching, Canada probably has at its fingertips and in its country the most significant program of extensive public immersion second-language education anywhere in the world.

From the base of our concern about second-language instruction and the importance of bilingualism have come important industries and important research in, for example, the development of electronic means of the transmission of language. In the use of airports we are way ahead of other countries in that field.

#### 1720

There are spinoff benefits, obviously, in important ways that one can cite in that respect, but having that experience behind us, we should be moving much more aggressively than we are, in fact, in the field of third-language instruction; namely, in the heritage languages.

The evidence of the instructional and personal value to the student and the third-language family is incontrovertible. The mere fact that a very basis of education lies with the family, the family's attitudes and orientation towards the education experience of the child, the ability to communicate with that child in the instruction that he is being given in school, keeping the school and the family together in that whole educational enterprise, has fundamentally required but apparently has not been of sufficient note to require an actual response. But it has required, in moral terms, that our school systems enable the children who move into them to maintain a level of communication at home around what they are doing at school, and that has meant, for large numbers of students, the necessity of third-language instruction in our schools, just to maintain that bond and to keep a healthy educational enterprise alive for children who have come to this country from third-language backgrounds.

It is quite clear in the studies that have been done of those students who have taken those

programs in that fashion, just as it has been quite clear with students who have gone through French immersion, that on balance, the language development in the majority language has, for those students, been better than the norm or the average for their peers who are single-language students; that far from being a drawback, far from debilitating the education of the student in question, in fact, there is an enhancement. Even if the student enters the school system as a third-language person, has his early instruction in the third language and begins only subsequently to add on English in the form of instruction in the language in the school system, you find that the development of the majority language moves very quickly, and at the end of a few years of schooling, on the average, the language competence is equal to, if not better than, that of the student who is a unilingual student.

The research tells us that we have nothing to fear in terms of majority language development; quite the contrary. The research also tells us that second-language and third-language development is an enhancement of the overall educational performance and academic development of the children in question. It is as though one has two or three different nets, sets of nuances and so on to grab hold of reality and to understand one's experience through multiple sets of eyes, rather than just simply the two that we have.

One can cite the sources—but there is no need to prolong the debate by doing that—which make it quite plain that the enhancement is there. For example, heritage-language children showed increased ability to analyse linguistic points in the majority language and in the heritage language. Heritage-language children demonstrated an improvement in the majority language. They revealed an increased ability in conceptual and creative thinking. They showed a sensitivity to communicative needs of their interlocutors, people questioning them and discussing with them. It also facilitated the learning of additional languages.

The evidence is very strong that educationally, pedagogically, this is an important initiative for us to be taking, but the evidence also is that this is a very limited initiative, that we should be moving much more strongly than we are in terms of making it possible for groups of parents in the community to request and secure language instruction in subjects in the school day.

We had a debate in this city, in particular, which had repercussions around the province—it certainly was heard around the province—when

there was a major confrontation between the Toronto Board of Education and the Toronto Teachers' Federation around the question of heritage languages; whether they should be taught in an extended day or in other appendages to the school day or week and what the implications were for the students in question.

The judgement, and I will not read it, was very clear. The judgement was that it was an act of discrimination in several respects to force students and families who wanted heritage languages in the school system to pursue them after the school day or in adjunct times, such as on the weekend. That obviously interfered substantially with other pursuits those children should have been having after school with their peers and with their fellow schoolmates. It interfered with their ability to access other music programs, sports programs and community programs of various kinds. It implied for them that their heritage language was somehow a second-class language in Canada and that they, by being descendants of that language group, shared in that discrimination and so on.

The strong words that were used in the final judgement were that the teaching of heritage languages after school, for example, served to segregate and ghettoize elementary school children.

Far from taking its key from that judgement, the ministry appears to have put it to one side, appears to have ignored it or at least is leaving it quite optional to boards of education to ignore that judgement. Certainly there is no evidence in Bill 5, An Act to amend the Education Act, that there is any bias or preference here whatsoever with respect to offering programs within the school day.

As I conclude my remarks, having made essentially the bulk of my commentary on the pedagogical advantages of heritage-language instruction in the school day, I do want to echo the comments that were made by the member for Scarborough West when he referred to the relevance of this undertaking to the global situation in which Canada finds itself and the problems of international competitiveness in the economy.

I will cite just a little instance, and I think I called the attention of the House to it some months ago when it was first announced. When McDonald's recently decided to set up shop and begin to sell their hamburgers and their related products in Moscow, where did they go in their grand worldwide system of fast-food delivery to get the support personnel to establish themselves

in Russia? They went to Winnipeg where they could be sure that they would be able to have a sufficient reservoir of persons still fluent in the Russian language to be able to serve their network system of communication that was necessary to maintain the liaison with the development in Russia.

Now, as we all know from recent reports, the opening of the Russian McDonald's was a grandiose affair, the largest McDonald's anywhere in the world. Obviously, it is being taken to with great panache by Muscovites and visitors to Russia. But that is a small indication of what kind of spinoff benefit there can be from maintaining in a very active way the language capacity of this country.

### 1730

The United States has had reason to rue for some time its failure to maintain multiple-language education in that country. Just recently, in fact, a federal commission reported to the President what the losses appear to have been for the United States in its relative abandonment of language instruction. In the world of diplomacy, where it is so important to have people who know the fine nuances of other languages to understand what the other country is saying to you, what is being exchanged over the diplomatic table, the United States has lost a certain momentum in its foreign policy by virtue of its lack of language capacity.

Second, with respect to business contacts, time and time again they discovered that American businesses did not understand what was being communicated across the business table in terms of the nuances of deals and the fine points of deal-making, because they did not understand in the intimate sense which being raised, fostered and educated in a heritage language would make possible.

Those kinds of opportunities are going to multiply; they are certainly not going to be reduced in the world we are living and working in. It is not surprising that many provinces across this country are expanding their heritage-language base and operations. The report I read to the House about the Alberta case notes that Japanese was at that point about to be introduced into the programs in Alberta.

Finally, while I rise, as did my colleague the member for Scarborough West, to support this legislation as a useful next small step, I really am puzzled by the ministry's failure to grab the larger part of the question rather than the smaller part and take the province into what I would say would be a new adventure but an adventure that

promises so much for our people; that is, the adventure of genuine, whole-hearted, third-language instructional development within the school system, within the school day, as an ongoing, full experience of understanding in the context of another language rather than as a kind of add-on, secondary afterthought to the rest of the system.

Of course, the heritage-language initiative ought to include the pouring of substantial resources into native-language instruction and schools as a component of that. I hope this minister will be introducing initiatives in the not-too-distant future moving even further in the direction of native self-government of education than we have moved to date in this province.

There are clearly worlds to conquer in this domain, and I hope the minister will invade it with substantial armies rather than a corporal's guard and a limited objective such as this bill appears to set before us.

**Hon Mr Ward:** Briefly, I always enjoy the interventions of my colleague the member for Hamilton West (Mr Allen) and his ongoing interest in issues of language instruction. It is also somewhat surprising to hear the member go on at some length about international competitiveness and trumpeting the line of chambers of commerce throughout Ontario. I do see some hope in the future, perhaps, to philosophic conversion along the way.

I am concerned about a couple of issues, though, and that relates to native-language instruction in this province, lest any of the vast audience watching this has the impression that the heritage-language program we will be mandating through this legislation is a substitute for native-as-a-second-language instruction in Ontario. That is clearly not the case. The member will know that in many communities throughout this province, school boards do offer funded native-as-a-second-language programs, programs that are indeed very effective.

It is important that the member raised the point that virtually all independent study on this particular issue confirms the tremendous benefit of third-language instruction or heritage-language instruction, because I guess one of the things that troubles me greatly as people polarize over this issue—and let us face it, there has been some polarization; there are people within our communities who object very strenuously to our support of heritage-language programs and our commitment to multiculturalism—is that they do lose sight of the fact that every child benefits from proficiency in a third language, both in

terms of his English-language skills and his overall academic proficiency and that has been confirmed time and time again.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** I also wanted to commend the member for Hamilton West on his presentation. He reminded me when he talked about the United States and his experience, of course, of the presidential commission on foreign languages and international studies done in 1979, which really chastised their past governments for their policies and indicated the kind of shortcomings that were there. Listening to the minister now talking about some of the experiments in native education that are taking place in these languages, the few experiments that we have, I am encouraged to hear him talk very positively about those.

There was an experiment in the early 1970s at the Toronto Board of Education which is often forgotten these days, where for a couple of years a program called Transition from Italian in the First Year was experimented with. A group of young Italian children was taught first in Italian and gradually in English. It was one of the first times that that kind of transition program was developed. The reports, as I look at them now from the 1975 Hansard, indicated that the functioning of these kids, whether it was interacting with other kids where they were much more open or whether it was in terms of language development which was much quicker than groups that were started in just straight English, all proved at that point seemingly the case for expanding in this area.

Yet if we look at government policy, we have not seen a major switch or challenge taken up along these lines. I am hoping, again, that in the public hearings what we will be hearing from the groups and from the ministry in response are ways that we can start to investigate how this should develop and evolve and not see this last step about bringing Scarborough into line as the final word on these matters.

**Mr D. R. Cooke:** I would like to comment on some of the comments that the member for Hamilton West made. I compliment him for them, especially with regard to the United States.

I noticed recently an article in the New York Times which surprised me, but when I thought about it, it did not surprise me. It concerned, I believe, Sussex county, which is Long Island and I imagine is suburban New York City. Sussex county is at the present time considering making itself unilingual and it is doing so because of the fact that there are a number of Spanish-speaking people moving into the county. The argument,

which was presented in the New York Times without any digression or any editorial suggestion that there was anything wrong with it, was that the government facilities need to be taken away from these people in Spanish so as to help them learn the English language so that they can melt more quickly into the rest of the American populace.

I was very saddened to read that and I think the United States as a culture, unfortunately, is suffering seriously because of it. Fortunately, we in this country celebrate our roots and we do so very thoroughly and very carefully and this bill will assist us in doing that.

1740

**Mr Allen:** Perhaps I will respond in reverse order. It is indeed true that there is a major bilingual controversy in the United States in many parts of the country where Spanish populations have moved in and some boards and districts are responding to that better and some worse than others. Unfortunately, large parts of the country do at times appear to be about 50, 60 or 70 years behind where we are in terms of language educational development and they are going to repeat our unfortunate experience of insisting that there is something especially debilitating about being raised in the other language in an anglophone environment, whereas quite the opposite is true, as we now know. I thank the member for pointing that out, because it is a very important observation.

I am always amused by the sort of ideological note that creeps into our commentaries here. When it comes to my relations with the chamber of commerce, as a democratic socialist and a New Democrat, I think mine are as good as anybody's in my region. Just last Friday, I had a long hour and a half with the industrial relations committee of the local chamber, working over adjustment issues. The member for York South (Mr B. Rae), when he has come to town, has been known to have lunch with the chamber and to sit there, discuss with them and in fact surprise them with the amount of agreement they have on a number of issues.

I think it is interesting how the ideological overhang seems to stay with the members opposite, and sometimes the people to my left, when we have long past gotten out of that mode.

**Mr Jackson:** I am to your east, Richard.

**Mr Allen:** The member is to my east, that is right.

In any case, I thank the members for their comments and also the observations of the minister regarding native education. I think what

we need in many of those areas more than anything else is resources to perhaps really strengthen what we have got.

**Mr Beer:** I think there are many issues which we could deal with as we approach this bill, but in the short time left, there are a couple of points I would like to make. The first one, which perhaps has not been as clear as it ought to be this afternoon, is that we are not talking about something brand-new; we are not talking about suddenly coming in with a program that has not been there before.

When members look at the numbers, as the minister mentioned in his comments in this House a couple of weeks ago, some 93,000 elementary school students studying 62 different heritage languages, in addition to English and French, already exist. What we are trying to do with this bill is to move that program further along, to ensure that all the children who want to have access to that program will do so. We are building on some foundations that have already been put firmly into the ground, indeed by members of all parties who have tried to bring this program forward.

Perhaps one of the points too we want to make this afternoon that has come up in a couple of ways is the whole question of language and how we in Canada, and indeed in North America, approach the question of language. I think too often we look at language as a kind of barrier. Those of us from what I suppose one could call the old majority community at times look on other languages, initially French and more recently what we refer to as third languages, as something that somehow blocks a young person, blocks an adult, from becoming a full participating member of Canadian society.

I think that what our moves in the whole area of heritage languages have done in large part is begin to, I hope, break down the concern that language is a kind of barrier and rather help us to focus on the fact that language can be, particularly for those who have recently come to this country, as we approach programs like heritage languages, a means to bring them further into Canadian society, help them gain a greater sense of self-confidence and become full participating members.

I was particularly struck, the day the Minister of Education and the Minister of Citizenship (Mr Phillips) announced this program last fall, when we went into a school in North York and there were some half-dozen, perhaps even seven or eight, different heritage languages being taught in the school that day.

To those who have said to me, "Why should we be doing this? Is this not somehow divisive?" I have often said, "Look, I want you to come with me to see the programs in these schools, to see the participation of community members in the instruction, in the development of the materials that are used, to see the co-operation between the school board and officials in the board with the community and also to see the pleasure which the children themselves derive from these programs and courses."

I think if we see it in human terms, we see real value that comes not only to those children but ultimately to all of us as Canadians, in terms of breaking down stereotypes and breaking down barriers. And, as has been mentioned on several occasions, the fact is that those children will become full Canadian citizens and will have the advantage of not only speaking their own heritage language but English, perhaps French and perhaps indeed many others, and that can be only a strength for this country as we move forward into the next century.

I think if we see how far we have come in terms of the development of our official languages policy and how we have worked with ourselves to come to a better understanding of why we want to have those programs, by the same token we can see the value of programs such as heritage languages in permitting our society to evolve and develop and to have a better understanding and appreciation of our differences. At the same time, those elements unite us, because I think if there is one thing that is clear in all of the programs that currently exist, it is that the children and the parents, the families of those involved in these programs, are Canadians. They want their children to become full participants in the society, but—and it is a reasonable "but"—they would like to see their children able to have some sense of their roots, where they have come from, and this I think helps in providing that.

I look on this bill and what we are going to be putting in place as a step in our development as we approach language, and it is a step in a process which undoubtedly will be ongoing.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** Those were the kinds of remarks that did warrant attention. I am glad to hear by the applause that certain members were at least listening to the member. I think it is important to say that if one looks at the heritage-language programs in certain parts of the city of Toronto these days—those that are within an extended school day and have been now for a number of years—it is fascinating to notice that the makeup of a number of the courses

is approximately 50 per cent to 60 per cent of the ethnic group whose language it is and approximately 40 per cent and sometimes as much as 50 per cent from other communities, including a large number of English-speaking people, and that these programs have often taken the place of the alternative programs which are available to people of other ethnic persuasions while the ethnic programs are being put on. They have been a real means of bringing the communities together.

I had hoped that the parliamentary assistant might say something, since he is the one who is going to be taking the bill during the hearings, about where the government would like to go or its openness at least, I would hope, to a continuing process and some kind of concept of how we look at language policy in a holistic fashion and who will be involved in that kind of discussion from this point forward.

Perhaps in his response to my remarks, or in the minister's concluding remarks, we might hear a little bit about where they see the government going from here because I believe still there is a real danger that this will be viewed as the last statement, the only thought of the Liberal government on this matter, since this is the zenith of what was proposed in the yellow paper, as I have said before, and this is all we have seen to date.

**Mr Beer:** If I might say simply in answer to the last comment, this government never stops in terms of developing and moving on from setting positions. Like so many things, I think this is part of a process and we are looking at trying to meet the needs of various groups with this program. But we have to make sure that we build each step in a very firm way and that we explain to the people in the province, so that they understand clearly what the goals and objectives of the program are and can see where indeed we want to go. I believe that in our discussions in committee we will be able to see that what we are doing here is moving forward and looking at an evolution of this program and our approach to language.

1750

**Hon Mr Ward:** I do want to indicate my appreciation to all of the members who have participated in this debate today. I am very much interested in their thoughts and comments and I am indeed looking forward to the bill going to committee for a few more days of discussion. In committee it will be carried by my parliamentary assistant, and I want to acknowledge his ongoing interest and contribution to this and many other

issues within the ministry for which I have some responsibility.

The members will know that in arriving at this policy that brought about the legislation we have before us today, there was a very significant period of public input and consultation. A number of options were indeed considered, including the program suggested by the former member for Oakwood, about whom the member for Scarborough West had quite a bit to say. One of the concerns that was expressed time and time again was the ability of the government of the school system in this province to deliver all the many kinds of programs that we know are of benefit to our students in helping each and every one of them reach his or her full potential.

We believe that the proposal we put forward is a sensible one. I know some reference has been made to the fact that there is, at least in the minds of some people in this House, no legitimacy to the argument that we should be concerned about the extent to which we expand programs which are part of the defined instructional day. Members will know that there is a limitation established by statute on the number of teaching days and the length of the school day, and when we talk about things such as international competitiveness, we have to recognize that perhaps we do have to focus our programs.

I think we have come up with a proposal here that really does give heritage language a special status within our schools, and I do not think it is at all a secondary status. It has been suggested that because these programs are above and beyond the defined instructional day, then they are either after school or on weekends. I want the members to know that, having visited schools in my parliamentary assistant's community and some of the schools in Toronto where heritage languages programs have been a very important part of the curriculum, in many cases they are delivered before the end of the instructional day, albeit an extended instructional day.

I do think the regulations that we will be bringing forward and the legislation that we have is flexible enough to encourage the kinds of programs that the member for Scarborough West talked about at Orde Street school, I believe it was, when he talked about the students of German heritage and the fine program that they have there.

On the issue of funding, over the course of the past 10 years, members will know that through

the general legislative grants, funds have been available to boards, not at rate of grant but in fact at a per student rate that has been covering virtually all the instructional costs associated with this. At the same time, though, there have not been resources committed to instructional materials and in-service training, both of which were part of the announcement that I made last October. In short, I believe that this is indeed a very significant step forward.

It looks like we are running out of time and I know we would like to call the question. We have a couple of procedural matters to deal with as well so that we can get this out to committee. I do want to thank the contribution of all members in moving second reading of Bill 5.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for standing committee on social development.

**Hon Mr Ward:** Mr Speaker, I would like to see unanimous consent of the House to waive standing order 63; that is, the standing order which establishes a time frame before this bill can go out to committee. As there is a possibility that the social development committee can deal with the bill prior to the expiration of that time, I would seek unanimous consent to waive standing order 63 as it relates to this bill.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Do we have agreement to waive standing order 63? Is there a question?

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** I believe the standing order is five working days. I am just trying to remember that. I would be reluctant to see hearings attempted with this, which would be the purpose of having this before next Monday, without giving groups time to get things together, but that would be three to four working days. I think there are enough groups that could come in that first day that we could probably handle it, so I think from our perspective we will give consent to that and leave it up to the steering committee of the social development committee to see if it can actually establish hearings within that time frame; but this would be permissive to allow them to do so. We will agree.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I repeat the question. Is there agreement to waive standing order 63?

Agreed to.

The House adjourned at 1756.

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS\*

(130 seats)

Second Session, 34th Parliament

**Lieutenant Governor: Hon Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC**

- 
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)  
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 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)  
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\*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. The other lists, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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No. 21

# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario



**Second Session, 34th Parliament**  
Wednesday, 7 June 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, 7 June 1989

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### PLANT CLOSURE

**Mr Mackenzie:** Workers at the Kendall Canada plant on Curity Avenue in Toronto are now in the process of losing their jobs as a result of the sale of part of the operation and the move of the remainder of the operation to Peterborough.

Both I and the union, the United Steelworkers of America, have written to the Minister of Labour (Mr Sorbara) and the Premier (Mr Peterson) over the cavalier treatment of the workers and their pension fund. Workers were not given the option of moving to the new plant. The company also wants to use surplus funds in the pension plan to cover employees not in the plan.

In a letter to me dated 28 March 1989, the Minister of Labour stated, "I am advised that the union apparently did not at any point formally propose that current employees in Toronto enjoy transfer rights to the Peterborough location."

The response from the union to this stupid statement is as follows: "I don't know where Sorbara is getting his information from, but most of his reply is fiction, not fact."

The company made it very clear from day one that they had no intention of taking any present employees, including salaried personnel, to the new location.

It gets even worse, and the minister has been informed. Where does this Minister of Labour get his information? What hope do these and other workers have, facing closures with a minister and a government that refuse any help and do not honour their commitment to plant closure legislation in the province of Ontario?

### GOVERNMENT'S RECORD

**Mr Villeneuve:** As recent events have again demonstrated, the government which promised us no walls and barriers has proven to be a government without standards and credibility.

Since 1985, we have witnessed the steady erosion of the government's standards of account-

ability and responsibility. Beginning with the infamous Liberal Economic Advisory Forum, better known as LEAF, this House has heard numerous complaints about the tollgating practices of this administration.

Since 1985, we have witnessed the resignation of four cabinet ministers: two because of conflict of interest and two because of conduct unacceptable to either this House or the people of this province. We have seen this government pass a conflict-of-interest law which the Premier (Mr Peterson) likes to boast about but which is nothing more than a public disclosure requirement substantially weakening previous conflict-of-interest guidelines.

When the opposition finds this government's conduct unacceptable, when the opposition is provoked by the government's indifference and complacency to use the parliamentary tools available to it to force the government into some semblance of appropriate action, then the government falls into a petulant sulk, pouts about the hijacking in the process and threatens to change the rules.

If this administration would simply change the way it manages its own house and practise what it preaches, it would not have to worry at all about the rules of this House.

### WINE AWARDS

**Mr Dietsch:** It gives me great pleasure to inform the honourable members of this House of recent awards received by two wineries in my riding of St Catharines-Brock.

Konzelmann Estate Winery won a gold and a bronze medal at the recent Intervin wine competition, which is a world wine competition. Their gold winner was the 1987 icewine, while the popular 1986 Gewurztraminer white wine took the bronze.

Hillebrand Estates Winery, which also took part in the competition, received a gold medal for its 1987 icewine, silver for its 1987 Collectors' Choice Chardonnay and 1987 Late Harvest Vidal. The bronze medal went to their 1988 Riesling Classic, 1988 Limited Edition Barrel Fermented Chardonnay and their 1987 Riesling Cuvée.

The marking for a wine is based on 18 criteria and scored out of 100. Wines scoring 85 or more win a gold, 77 to 84 win a silver, while 70 to 77 win a bronze.

I hope that my colleagues in this Legislature will join with me in congratulating both Konzelmann and Hillebrand wineries on their recent success and, of course, support the excellent products of Ontario wineries, perhaps by picking up a bottle.

#### SENIOR CITIZENS MONTH

**Ms Bryden:** June is Senior Citizens Month. In order to give some meaning to this annual gesture of recognition to our seniors, I would like to urge the government to make commitments in four important areas for action this month. By so doing, it will show that its concern for seniors is not merely lipservice.

First, bring in a provincial dental health plan for seniors, so they do not continue to lose their teeth and suffer loss of dignity and alienation. The government has been promising this since the 1985 election.

Second, bring in an amendment to the Residential Rent Regulation Act, 1986, to make it clear that rent review applies to retirement homes and retirement communities operated in the private sector.

Third, bring in an amendment to the Landlord and Tenant Act to ban no-pets clauses in tenancy agreements. Unscrupulous landlords are using such clauses to evict responsible pet owners. The present act provides adequate remedies for landlords facing irresponsible pet owners. Many seniors rely on their pets for companionship.

Fourth, provide extra funding to homes for the aged and nursing homes to install air conditioning or better ventilation to prevent a recurrence of last summer's deaths, some of which appeared to be due to the heat wave. I think action is needed before the long, hot summer comes this year.

#### CONDUCT OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Mr Pope:** I just want to follow up on the comments of the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr Villeneuve), while the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) is fanning himself with the product of his labours.

It is our feeling that this government, internally and for the benefit of the public of Ontario, should seriously address the issue that we attempted to question the Premier (Mr Peterson) on yesterday, which was the standards of conduct that will be provided to his cabinet ministers and

letting the people of the province know what those standards are.

It appears clear there has been confusion in the mind of the Premier and confusion in this government over the handling of the sad events of the past two weeks. The Premier indicated at the beginning that he saw nothing wrong with the conduct of the former Solicitor General, the member for London South (Mrs Smith), and then finally, after constant questioning over a period of two weeks, admitted that her conduct amounted to a mistake, a mistake in judgement for which she had to resign. Then, of course, the Premier added to the media outside this chamber that he spent hours trying to convince her not to resign. Clearly, we are getting mixed signals from this government and from this Premier.

The Premier indicated yesterday that perhaps he was implementing the former Davis guidelines, but pointed to his legislation. Clearly, we need a direct, coherent, comprehensive statement of guidelines for the ministers of this government, and we want to ensure that the ministers are adhering to those guidelines.

1340

#### TRANSPORTATION

**Mr Tatham:** In Los Angeles, the 17-mile Century Freeway project was allowed to proceed at \$100 million per mile.

Here is an Aesop's fable, *The Cat and the Fox*. Fox was boasting to a cat one day about how clever he was. "Why, I have a whole bag of tricks," he bragged. "For instance, I know of at least 100 different ways of escaping my enemies, the dogs."

"How remarkable," said the cat. "As for me, I have only one trick, though I usually make it work. I wish you could teach me some of yours."

"Well, some time when I have nothing else to do," said the fox, "I might teach you one or two of my easier ones."

Just at that moment, they heard the yelping of a pack of hounds. They were coming straight towards the spot where the cat and fox stood. Like a flash, the cat scampered up a tree and disappeared in the foliage. "This is the trick I told you about," she called down to the fox. "It's my only one. Which trick are you going to use?"

The fox sat there trying to decide which of his many tricks he was going to employ. Nearer and nearer came the hounds. When it was quite too late, the fox decided to run for it. But even before he started, the dogs were upon him, and that was the end of the fox, bagful of tricks and all.

Could we find a courageous, persevering young Genoese like Captain Christopher Columbus to discover America beyond stop, go, stop, stop, Metro? Contest closes October 12, 1992. That is the 500th anniversary of finding San Salvador.

Maybe high-speed rail might be part of that discovery. What do you say, Captain Columbus?

#### ONTARIO NORTH NOW

**Mr Laughren:** In years gone by, the northern Ontario pavilion called Ontario North Now at Ontario Place sold goods made in northern Ontario only. That was a policy of the previous government and the early days of this government.

For the last year or so, though, this government, for some reason known only to itself—and I am glad the minister is here—contracted out the operation of the gift shop there to International Cigars Stores, which in its wisdom decided that it would just as soon sell goods from around the world, and so much for the northern Ontario preference.

It makes absolutely no sense. There are thousands of gift shops in this province and this city. Surely to goodness, the pavilion at Ontario Place called Ontario North Now could be set aside to sell only products made in northern Ontario.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

##### LONG-TERM CARE

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** My statement today deals with long-term care for our elderly people and people with disabilities.

In the speech from the throne, the government promised the leadership necessary to chart a course for securing a better future for the people of Ontario.

Today, in partnership with my colleagues the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan), the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs Wilson) and the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr Mancini), I want to reaffirm that leadership and outline the approach we are taking to achieve a fundamental change for people who need long-term care in Ontario.

As members will know, long-term care means personal health and social services delivered over an extended period of time to people who are either elderly or have physical disabilities.

Long-term care also means support for all those many hundreds of thousands of people throughout Ontario who devote so much time to

assisting seniors and people with physical disabilities. We are talking about a system which involves and affects a great number of people.

The growing number of senior citizens and people with disabilities challenges us to rethink the way we serve people. We must develop a system that better integrates individual independence, family and care-giver support, in-home services and long-term care beds.

By early 1990, we will produce a plan to implement comprehensive reform of long-term care, with change beginning in the 1990-91 fiscal year. To this end, a special interministry task force, which my ministry is pleased to lead, has already commenced its work.

As we proceed along our course, we will be holding discussions with those groups that are most directly affected. Of course, I can assure all those in need throughout the province that the services they are now receiving will remain fully in place throughout this process.

Some months ago, we developed seven basic principles which are now being used to guide the comprehensive reform. These principles are being distributed along with this statement. Briefly, the principles are: to reform the funding system to emphasize individual needs; to support care givers; to encourage use of the most appropriate, cost-effective service; to emphasize services in people's own homes; to establish a single, integrated admissions process; to strengthen the role of the local community and to ensure affordability and appropriate sharing of costs.

These principles are designed to maintain the independence of Ontario's seniors and people with disabilities and support their family care givers. They will also strengthen community ability to plan and manage responsible health and social services within a provincial policy framework. This reform will ensure that the system is accessible and affordable, with costs shared appropriately among governments and the individuals affected.

A key decision reflected in these principles is to fund long-term care beds by using a levels-of-care approach. We will move to a system of funding that will be based primarily on the care required by each individual. The necessary services will be made available whether the individual lives at home, in a community home or in an institution. This is in keeping with our philosophy of making services fit people rather than forcing people to fit the services.

In addition, the reforms will establish a single admissions process for both formal community

care services and long-term care beds. The reforms will reinforce our community care services to ensure that they really work as a reliable alternative to institutionalization. Indeed, appropriate care in the community will be the preferred approach in the system, just as it is the preference of Ontario's citizens.

Services that help families and friends continue as care givers will be recognized as a fundamental part of the system. We must remember that most of the people who need long-term care will continue to be looked after at home by their families. Support for families to strengthen their ability to provide care is crucial in all our planning.

Comprehensive reform will address the needs of expansion of community services and improved support for these services. The wider scope for the reform process will incorporate the principle of one-stop access in the province-wide implementation of comprehensive reform.

Our approach builds on the extensive work that already has been initiated under A New Agenda to develop and test concepts to improve the organization of and access to our services. We will utilize the consultation experience of the past few years, including the analysis of extended care and legislation issues carried out by the minister responsible for senior citizens' affairs.

As we move towards implementation, the mandate will be shared and the scope broadened to complement the government's health policies and the strategies and directions set out by the Premier's Council on Health Strategy.

With respect to the government's health strategy, the recent announcement by my colleague the Minister of Health in which she launched a public education and discussion process on health care outlines the need to create a balanced continuum of long-term care, including home care, community care and extended care.

We therefore recognize the essential role that the long-term care system plays in overall health and social services. Comprehensive reform will position the long-term care system to match individual needs with appropriate services so that we can reduce unnecessary use of acute care beds and avoid overwhelming growth in the number of extended care and chronic care beds.

So that we produce the best reform possible, throughout the next months we will seek advice from groups affected by these proposed reforms. My colleagues the Minister of Health, the minister responsible for disabled persons and the minister responsible for senior citizens' affairs

and I are charged with the responsibility of enhancing and maintaining the health and social wellbeing of all the people of our province. We welcome this challenge and opportunity for reform.

1350

#### HOUSING FOR THE DISABLED

**Hon Mr Mancini:** Many disabled adults and children living in Ontario today have special housing needs. As a government, we are working to help meet those needs. We must ensure equal access and equal opportunity so that all Ontarians may reach their full potential. That is the message we are highlighting this week during National Access Awareness Week.

The full integration of disabled persons into the social and economic life of this province must begin at home. The government of Ontario therefore recognizes this important priority. Over the next two years, we will add an additional \$10 million to the Ontario home renewal program for disabled persons.

The Ministry of Housing will make these funds available to assist disabled home owners or home owners who have dependants or family members living with them to make suitable modifications to their homes. This program offers forgivable loans of up to \$15,000 for home owners who earn up to a maximum of \$60,000 per year. This additional funding means that about 1,000 more homes across the province will be made accessible for persons with disabilities.

Under this program, which began in 1987, funding to more than 750 home owners has been committed for such basic necessities as wheelchair ramps, stair glides and other permanent fixtures. This is not the only commitment being made. My colleague the Minister of Housing (Ms Hošek) oversees a broad range of programs that have built-in design and funding components to help meet the special housing needs of persons with disabilities.

The Ontario Housing Corp is also involved in an ongoing retrofit program. Local housing authorities are making modifications of apartments where necessary to assist tenants with disabilities. The Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority is leading the way. The Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority unveiled the first of two wheelchair-accessible model apartments at its Moss Park development. This year, MTHA plans to modify 53 specially equipped units in 31 high-rise buildings for tenants who are wheelchair users. MTHA has allocated an initial \$1.5

million this year for the program and will be setting aside a similar amount for 1990.

These programs and the sensitivities of the people who make them work underline this government's commitment to providing opportunities for persons with disabilities. The Ministry of Housing is acting on the message that persons with disabilities need and want equal access, and this is a message that should echo loud and clear to all of us here in Ontario.

#### EVACUATION OF ONTARIANS FROM CHINA

**Hon Mr Wong:** I would like to bring to the attention of this House the steps that are being taken by the Ontario government to ensure the safety of Ontarians who are leaving China in view of the deterioration of the situation since last weekend.

The federal government is arranging the evacuation operations, particularly from Beijing, for any Canadians wishing to leave, including Ontarians. However, because a number of Ontarians were outside of Beijing in the province of Jiangsu as a result of Ontario exchange programs, Ontario officials in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Nanjing and Toronto have been working continuously in co-operation with the Canadian embassy in Beijing and the consulate in Shanghai to locate and provide safe transportation out of China for Ontarians wishing to leave.

They include Ontario exchange participants in programs sponsored by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities—the Ontario-Jiangsu education exchange; the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology—the Tradewinds program; the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation—the Ontario-Jiangsu sports exchange; and also the Ontario staff of the Ontario-Jiangsu Science and Technology Centre in Nanjing.

The one Ontario exchange participant in Beijing has arrived in Tokyo today on the flight from Beijing as part of the evacuation organized by the Canadian embassy. Also on that flight was an Ontario student who had been studying in Jiangsu, who was on a trip to Beijing. Through the Ontario-Jiangsu Science and Technology Centre in Nanjing, the Ontarians in Jiangsu are preparing to leave immediately. The seven who are at Suzhou University are now at the Sheraton Hotel in Shanghai with an official of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, expecting to leave for Hong Kong on a Qantas flight today or a Canadian International or United Airlines flight tomorrow.

The Ontarians in Nanjing, including students, teachers and coaches, are with an official of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology at the Dingshan Hotel in Nanjing. They are expected to depart Nanjing for Hong Kong either on a flight chartered by Ontario on Thursday, 8 June or on a commercial flight on Friday, 9 June on which 17 seats are confirmed.

An Ontario teacher in Wuxi is travelling by car tomorrow morning to Nanjing in order to join the group in Nanjing for their flight to Hong Kong on Thursday or Friday.

I can assure members that all the Ontario officials in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Nanjing and Queen's Park who have been working on these measures will continue their efforts to ensure safe transportation out of China for all Ontario exchange participants wishing to leave. While our immediate concern has been for the safety of Ontarians now in China, our thoughts remain with the Chinese people, and especially those grieving for family and friends.

#### RESPONSES

##### HOUSING FOR THE DISABLED

**Mr Allen:** I guess I am not really in the mood today for these kinds of announcements. The announcement of the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr Mancini) appears to be suggesting that there is some additional money going into housing and equipping houses for accessibility. That is well and good, but I think one remembers what happened under Project 2000, the way the moneys were diluted and the time extended. It looked as if it was a good thing when it was announced, but when we looked at it, it really did not amount to a great deal. In fact, it was a step down from what was available previously for those with special needs.

I am not really going to say very much about the honourable minister's announcement because I think it bears some analysis, to look at the actual need that is out there, seeing how far it goes and how many years will have to be in the process before we make all those homes and all those facilities available for the disabled.

##### LONG-TERM CARE

**Mr Allen:** When I come to the announcement of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney) with respect to his new program of community-based, family-oriented, cost-effective services to look after the disabled and the elderly, I have to wonder where it is coming from.

Is this coming from the Price Waterhouse studies that were a belated study of the integrated homemakers' service and the home care service out there? Is this a response to the three-year interministerial study of the homemakers' service that went on for so long and yielded nothing a year ago in terms of any observable results?

The minister suggests in his very fine words that this is "to establish a single, integrated admissions process; to strengthen the role of the local community," and that "this is in keeping with our philosophy of making services fit people, rather than forcing people to fit into services."

The last time the minister went out with that philosophy was with the integrated homemakers' program and it was a total mess. If the minister does it on that loose basis, obviously he is going to have to do it without very strict guidelines. What they found out was that the takeup was so heavy they could not manage it, either in their administration, in their funding or anything else. We have not had a resolution to that problem to date. Is this a response to that problem and that unresolved issue? I do not know. The minister does not say.

Certainly there is no dollar sign attached. Is this more commitment than we would have had under the integrated homemakers' program, had it expanded? We do not know. All we know is that under the integrated homemakers' program, the result was that prior to the last election we had an announcement. There was going to be an expansion of 20 new centres in the integrated homemakers' program.

What happened was that within a month there was evidence the system was collapsing. A month later, the deputy minister was telling us that the whole system was on hold, that it was capped. A few months later, we learned that services were going into massive deficit. Then we virtually had a major strike of the Red Cross homemakers' organization and ancillary services.

There are a lot of words in this announcement and a lot of them are very nice, but I must say that this is a way of backing up the system once more on to families who will remain hard pressed. We know there are waiting lists upon waiting lists for services of all kinds for these people out there, whether one is talking about nursing homes, options for nursing homes, chronic care or all the rest of it.

Perhaps it is my mood, but I really think we deserve something more explicit, something more precise, something more with dollar signs

attached, something that tells us where this actually came from in terms of the ongoing administration and development of services for the elderly and for the disabled in our community.

1400

#### EVACUATION OF ONTARIANS FROM CHINA

**Mr Reville:** I want to thank the Minister of Energy (Mr Wong) for his statement today in which he discusses the measures being taken to ensure the safety of Ontarians in China. I know they and their loved ones will be reassured by the efforts the government is taking.

I am a little disappointed he did not respond to the suggestions I made yesterday, which the Premier (Mr Peterson) thought were good ideas, about organizational leadership for assistance to people in China and about compassionate relief for Chinese nationals studying in Ontario. There is an additional concern that I have just learned about. There is some concern that the exchange program may be cancelled. I believe it would be wrong to punish the program for the errors of the Chinese government.

#### HOUSING FOR THE DISABLED

**Mrs Cunningham:** I would like, first of all, to respond to the statement by the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr Mancini). I am going to look at this extremely optimistically because anything we do to ensure accessibility for people in their own homes or outside of their homes is very important.

I suppose the thing we are most concerned about is the fact that although we are looking at an additional \$10 million, we are really only looking at helping some 1,000 more disabled people. I would hope the minister would be most efficient in the administration of these dollars, because we all know that we have one million disabled people living in our province at this time. That is a very large number. To stand here today and say we are going to help 1,000 more people is a step certainly in the right direction.

I suppose what I would really like to be able to do within the next few months is take a look at how the program has been administered and hope that even more than 1,000 individuals could be helped with this very small amount of money.

We in this party are interested in looking at progress and that is what we hope we are looking at today in the announcement from the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons.

## LONG-TERM CARE

**Mrs Cunningham:** In response to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney), I suppose we have a number of comments to make. First of all, again we think we are looking at a move in the right direction. We are looking at it rather guardedly because we are looking at an interministerial committee. That we approve of. We have always been arguing and been very much concerned about whose responsibility it really is when we come to senior citizens' affairs and taking care of disabled seniors.

Right now, we are looking at this task force that will work together to be more efficient, again, in providing services for disabled seniors, seniors who are in need of health care and people who need long-term care, either in their own homes, in our communities or in institutions. For that, we say it is a good move in the right direction.

We are most concerned about the cost-sharing. We hope that during the consultations the municipalities and families will be very seriously listened to, because we know in these very difficult times that we will be looking at different ways of funding these programs, I am sure. What we really want is a commitment from the municipalities and from the families so that all of us are working very carefully together.

The last point I would like to make is that the services were promised in the past and we are now talking about only 16 of 38 centres being available for the public when it comes to integrated homemakers' services. That was a promise that was made some three years ago. Really, what I hope is happening today is that we are looking at a promise that will (1) be acted upon and (2) be kept. The minister has a good reputation for responding to the province with intentions, and over the next short period of time we will be looking for some very serious results.

The last point I would like to make on this particular statement with regard to long-term care is that we are very happy to see the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan) involved, because we know the hospital costs and the costs of health care have to be managed more efficiently. We hope that where hospital beds are now used inappropriately, this task force can look at a better way of not only serving individuals, which the minister underlined and which we think is very important, but serving individuals in a setting that is a happier place for both themselves and their families.

We wish the minister the very best. We want to work with him, with all of them, in this initiative. We will be hoping that we will move very quickly on public input. We will be hoping the minister will get the kind of support all of us need on the cost-sharing. In the end, we hope this will not be just a promise but a very true reality for people who are desperately waiting for these kinds of services—yesterday—and we hope we can provide them in the very near future.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

## CONDUCT OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Mr Reville:** My questions are for the Premier. I fear that standards of conduct for cabinet ministers remain in doubt. Yesterday, the Premier told the House his government has embraced the Davis 1978 standards for ministerial conduct relating to communication with police. He said, "There are several levels of, shall we say, enforcement." Would the Premier kindly tell the House now how, as first minister, he ensures compliance with these guidelines?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** As the member knows, they are guidelines, as stated. They are not a law. There is not an independent enforcement agency. Like any other standard guidelines with respect to behaviour, it is not referred to the court. So ultimately the first minister interprets—there is no question about that—those guidelines. I do not think that should be any surprise to my honourable friend.

**Mr Reville:** The Premier will remember from his law school days something about the length of the chancellor's foot. According to the media, the former Solicitor General—

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** What?

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** What?

**Mr Reville:** Well, come on. Read a book.

The former Solicitor General may be returned to the cabinet despite her resignation. This seems to me to be a very curious remark. The Premier yesterday, for the first time in two months, acknowledged that she had made a mistake, that it was wrong for her to intervene. He says as well that he embraces the toughest standards anywhere. How close is that embrace and how tough are those standards?

**Hon Mr Bradley:** Very dramatically put.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** As my friend says, dramatically put, but I think my honourable friend understands this. He can continue to ask questions about those standards. He can continue to ask questions about the judgements we make. It is all there for all members to see. My

honourable friend may feel he does not make mistakes. My guess is that if you trace back his career, he has made quite a few. I will have to make judgements based on the facts as I know them, and I have done that and they are all there for members to see.

**Mr Reville:** The Premier will find that concerns about my mistakes are of less interest to the public than concerns about his judgement.

My second supplementary relates to ministerial conduct again. Yesterday, in Hansard it says, "I should tell my honourable friend that the public trustee is looking into this entire matter," meaning, I believe, the Patti Starr affair. "He is going to report some time in the not-too-distant future, so I am told." My question to the Premier is, who told him? Who in his office, or did he himself, contact the public trustee for that information?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** No, I did not contact the public trustee. I have not talked to him. I think I read it in the newspaper, where the member probably read it.

1410

**Mr Reville:** My questions are to the same Premier.

**Hon Mr Conway:** We are worried about the duality of your leadership.

**Mr Reville:** I thought he was actually wanting a job as some kind of a talk show host.

#### USE OF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION'S FUNDS

**Mr Reville:** My next questions are about the Pattigate affair. The Premier yesterday revealed a piece of information that we ordinary mortals are not privy to. He said, about the many allegations of improper conduct by Mrs Starr, "Frankly, some aren't correct but perhaps some are."

This is the second time in recent memory that the Premier has had information that is apparently not available to other members of this assembly. Could he share with us which of the allegations are correct and which of the allegations are not correct?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** There were allegations made in newspapers about somebody's being a major Liberal fund-raiser. I had never heard of the chap until this whole discussion started. Those kinds of things frequently are things that are written, as my honourable friend knows. Some are correct and some are not correct, but it is in the hands of the trustee and the Commission on Election Finances, who are going to look into

the matter, I gather, to assess all of the facts therein.

**Mr Reville:** The Premier says, "as the honourable member knows." I know no such thing, and that is the problem. The Premier will be aware that one of the Pattigate allegations concerns Dino Chiesa. He worked as a fund-raiser, I understand, for the member for Oakwood (Ms Hošek). The Premier says he did not. Maybe he has too many fund-raisers. Since 1 May he has been special adviser to the Deputy Minister of Housing. The allegation in that case is that he got \$10,000 from Patti Starr for "consulting work" relating to his activities on behalf of the member for Oakwood. Apparently the money was paid back.

The Premier will be aware that if this allegation were true, it would have very serious legal consequences for a member of this government and a member of cabinet. What efforts has the Premier made to ensure himself that these allegations are unfounded and that this minister is not complicit in a violation?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I take it there is an allegation that this was a Liberal fund-raiser. I was asked yesterday by one member when I had heard of this chap. I never met the chap. I had never heard of him until somebody told me he had been hired in the Ministry of Housing to do some special work because, as the member knows, it is the government's view that we should get more housing on the market. They went through an interview process and the deputy minister conducted the entire thing.

What I am telling the member is that some of those allegations were untrue. Now I have told my honourable friend that the public trustee is investigating all of the allegations and there will be an objective report on all of that matter. How can I be more open than that?

**Mr Reville:** The Premier has not indicated that he lodged a complaint with the Commission on Election Finances, for instance. Because he has noted that he reads this stuff in the papers, the Premier will also be aware that the mother of the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms Oddie Munro) has admitted receiving \$5,000 from Patti Starr for a housing survey in Hamilton. The member is quoted as saying she was retained to mail the survey because of a conversation between her daughter and Mrs Starr, in which Mrs Starr asked her daughter if she knew anyone who might be interested in doing the work.

I am sure many people would be interested in taking things to the post office at \$5,000 a crack. They might be curious as to how to get on the

minister's list of referrals. But that is not my question. My question is, has he spoken to the member for Hamilton Centre and other members of the cabinet to indicate they should not be steering these kinds of sweetheart deals to members of their families?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** The member is making certain allegations. Let me tell him, if he suggests that there is any conflict of interest by any member of the cabinet, he has every right to refer that to the conflict-of-interest commissioner. I can assure my honourable friend of that; and if he thinks there is anything untoward, he should stand up and say so.

#### HIRING OF HOUSING CONSULTANT

**Mr Harris:** I would like to go back to the Premier about the question that I asked yesterday, which the Premier at that time referred to the Minister of Housing (Ms Hošek), concerning the \$250,000 housing contract given to Dino Chiesa. This is one of the minister's election workers who made a substantial donation to the minister's campaign.

Yesterday I asked the Premier and he referred the question to the Minister of Housing. Neither one of them had an answer for me. The simple question at that time was: Why was this contract of such a substantial nature not tendered or even advertised? The minister did not have an answer to that question yesterday. The Premier did not have an answer. I would ask him, on reflection—I am sure it is in his briefing book and I am sure he has looked into it overnight—has he determined why this contract was not tendered, not advertised, and is he satisfied with that?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I am assured by the deputy minister that every routine procedure was in fact followed, that he wanted to employ a certain kind of expertise, that they interviewed a number of people and they selected this particular person. I am told that this person has 10 or 15 years' experience in public housing, working with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. He worked in the private sector as well and brought a certain kind of expertise into the Ministry of Housing.

At any time my honourable friend can ask the deputy minister who made these decisions from a bureaucratic point of view of the kind of help he wanted, and that was it; so there is nothing strange or untoward about this. My honourable friend may want to suggest that there is, and he continues to suggest that there is, but he is wrong, I say with respect.

**Mr Harris:** Does it not concern the Premier at all that last September—since he gets all his

information from the newspaper—in the *Globe and Mail*, in an article by Michael Valpy, it was stated, "There are rumours within the development industry that Mr Chiesa...is about to go to work for Ms Hošek as an adviser"? That article was written nine months ago. We are talking about a contract that was awarded this spring and became effective in May.

Does it not concern the Premier at all that nine months ago the development industry knew her friend was going to get the job? Is he satisfied and not at all concerned about the lack of tendering, about the lack of advertising for this position and that in a sensitive job there is absolutely no perception—at least perception—that something went wrong here?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I am telling the member that the Manual of Administration was followed in every detail, so I am told by the deputy minister who made the decision. I understand that the member would like to draw a different perception on the matter, but that is not the perception I have or that I think other fairminded people who know the facts have.

**Mr Pope:** Blame the deputy.

**Mr Harris:** That is right. The Premier has to find somebody to blame, I suppose. I do not know what happened to ministerial responsibility.

It was rumoured in the development industry and reported in the media nine months ago that it was a friend of the minister who was going to get the job, then we go through some sort of process.

I would ask the Premier if he would ensure a number of things, given the sensitivity and the important nature of this very lucrative contract and the sensitivity of the job, which is to bring the private sector and the public sector together, ie, what developers will get land, money, rezoning; a very, very sensitive issue, an important one, we acknowledge, but very sensitive. Surely, the Premier would want to be satisfied that out there in the development industry there is no perception of wrongdoing.

I would ask the Premier if he would determine a number of things and give us answers to a number of questions—

**The Speaker:** Order. You have already placed the question.

**Mr Harris:** No, I have not. I have pointed out the hypocrisy of what is going on around here; I have not asked the question—

**The Speaker:** Order. Premier.

**Mr Harris:** I am sorry, Mr Speaker, but I have not asked the question yet.

1420

I would like to ask the Premier if he will provide us with the list of people who were given this special invitation to bid for the job and, second, if he will provide us with the contract that was awarded. If we cannot get those answers, will he have the matter referred to the standing committee on public accounts, so the Provincial Auditor could look—

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I have no problem. I gather his contract is all public. The member can look at it; it deals with all of these matters. Second, I am not sure of the practices referring to people who applied for this particular position, but I can assure my—

**Mr Harris:** Nobody applied. It was not advertised.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** My honourable friend stands up and says things in this House that are not factually correct, and keeps repeating himself. He thinks that makes an impression and it does not. I think my honourable friend would have to make sure that he is on top of his facts in this matter. He is wrong.

I have no problem with this matter being discussed with the deputy minister who made the decision and with the contract being made public. If it is not unfair to the various other people who applied for the job, I have no problem with their names being released; I would not want to embarrass them in any way. The member would not mind, but I would not want to do that.

But I can assure my honourable friend that it was the kind of expertise that we want. He is the one standing in this House all the time saying that we have to do more in terms of housing. I can tell my honourable friend we are doing that and we are doing that in a fair way. We think we are avoiding any conflicts and I think my honourable friend cannot have it both ways, as he constantly tries to do.

#### EMPLOYER HEALTH LEVY

**Mr Brandt:** My question is for the Treasurer. I want to bring to the Treasurer's attention the fact that a recent survey printed in today's *Globe and Mail* indicates that close to 50 per cent of executives indicate that there is going to be a significant slowdown in the economy; the survey also indicates that business confidence in Ontario is at its lowest level since 1982. Given that background, in his recent budget the Treasurer introduced a payroll tax, which is a tax not on

profit but on the gross payroll of every employer in this province.

I wonder if the Treasurer could indicate whether he took any surveys or had any kind of studies done by his ministry officials with respect to the number of jobs that will be lost as a direct result of the introduction of this new tax.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** We do not believe that jobs will be lost as a result of the new tax. We believe the projections that we made and that were announced in the budget of a growth of about 2.8 per cent will be fulfilled. This is a reduced rate of economic growth, but we view it as a sustainable rate and a rate which will allow the province to continue to maintain the lowest unemployment rate in Canada, and also to see that the commitments made by our manufacturers, entrepreneurs and people who are leaders in all aspects of business and the professions will continue to increase levels of employment.

**Mr Brandt:** I would remind the Treasurer that he inherited the lowest unemployment rate in the country. The fact of the matter is that there are only two other provinces in all of Canada that have a payroll tax comparable to the one the Treasurer introduced. One of them, Manitoba, has in its recent budget exempted some 1,400 companies and reduced the payroll tax in the case of 900 others.

Manitoba's Deputy Minister of Finance has indicated, "The employer tends to do without some employees because they cannot afford the tax." That was the justification that was given for the reduction or the complete exemption of that tax as it impacts on the corporate and business community.

I ask the Treasurer again, is he prepared to table in this House any impact studies that he may have within his ministry relative to job losses that are directly associated with the introduction of this new and, I might add, very unattractive tax?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Since the honourable member is comparing Ontario with Manitoba it might be useful if he were also to provide a comparison with Quebec, which has had a similar method of financing at least part of its medicare for many years. The honourable member will know that, rather than damning it as a silent killer of jobs or whatever dramatic quote might be applied by the honourable member and his friends, the Treasurer in Quebec has in fact increased the payroll tax because he feels it is a fair and equitable way to finance at least a part of the expanding costs of medicare.

The honourable member will know that in this province the costs of medicare are just slightly

below \$14 billion; at least that is the commitment through the Ministry of Health. Employers, through the employer health levy, will be paying just 16 per cent of those costs.

We feel it is distributed in a fair and equitable way. We have a half rate for employers with small payrolls and we think that this way the risks are adequately and fairly distributed.

**Mr Brandt:** I still have not had my question answered with respect to the tabling of any impact studies the Treasurer may have.

I would like to point out to the Treasurer again, if I might, that a recent consultant's study for an employee earning \$50,000 a year indicates that the current Ontario health insurance plan charges to that particular employee, which are paid for by the employer, are some \$360. The new payroll tax the Treasurer has introduced will increase the cost of that employee to the employer by some \$600 or more to \$975.

This rather dramatic shift in the costs of maintaining employees in certain businesses is of concern to the members of this party. We believe it is going to cost jobs. The Treasurer can call it a silent killer of jobs if he likes.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** You Tories call it that.

**Mr Brandt:** I am quoting the Treasurer because that is, in effect, what we believe is going to happen as a result of the impact of this particular tax.

Will the Treasurer table in this House any studies he has with respect to the impact of this tax on the economy of Ontario?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** The honourable member would be aware that the employer health levy is designed to be approximately the same producer of revenue that will be allocated to health services as the insurance premiums the previous government used to depend on.

As a matter of fact, his figures are based on most extreme circumstances. For a person who is married, with present OHIP premiums of about \$715 a year payable, the honourable member, using good old Lambton county arithmetic, would know that about \$35,000 to \$36,000 a year is the salary which is roughly equivalent.

So if employers have many employees who are paid more than \$36,000, it will cost them more. If, on the other hand, they have employees who are paid less, there will be a certain saving. So it really depends upon the class of the employer. If it is somebody, let's say, running a business with a very large proportion of people at high levels, then it may cost more.

But this is a decision we are prepared to put to the Legislature. I hope I can be confident that the

reasonable members of the Legislature, in assessing these arguments, will support me. We feel it is a fair and equitable way for the expanding costs of medicare at a time when the government of Canada is reducing its share of these costs. We must return to the people—

**The Speaker:** New question, the member for Hamilton East.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Mr Mackenzie:** I have a question of the Minister of Labour. Yesterday the Minister of Labour, in trying to get off the hook, in an obvious coverup of the injustice done to female workers suffering from cancer as a result of workplace exposure at the old Canadian General Electric plant on Dufferin Street in Toronto, used the word "misportrayed" to described my question. The word was accurate but maybe aimed at the wrong person; it should have been himself.

Does this minister now understand that neither the union nor my colleague Elie Martel was given the information the ministry had that thorium dust was present in the coil and wire drawing department where double and triple rates of cancer were occurring among the women workers? Had this information been available, the workers might not have suffered the results and may very well have had their claims established today.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** I do not want to be uncharitable to my friend the member for Hamilton East, and particularly because I think that as a matter of fundamentals, both of us are extremely concerned about the circumstances of some 14 women who suffer and have suffered for a number of years and who have claims still outstanding before the Workers' Compensation Board.

My dilemma yesterday was that in his question he suggested that somehow, immediately after assuming the role of Minister, I became involved in some sort of coverup of something that happened in the Ministry of Labour under a different government and a different party some seven years ago. That is absolute nonsense.

**1430**

I just want to tell my friend the member for Hamilton East this: on 19 May, that is, about three weeks ago, representatives of the union and the Ontario Federation of Labour came to my office and suggested to me—and this was the first time I heard it—that there was information they should have had in 1982 which they did not have. At that time, I undertook to provide for the union any information it ought to have had at that time

which it did not have. That represents a careful scrutiny of files going back some seven years, but my commitment to the union and to the OFL stands.

**Mr Mackenzie:** Well, we are waiting. The McMaster study back in 1982 clearly identified a probable workplace-related cause of the cancer the women were suffering. There was no benefit of the doubt given to these workers, and it was not allowed because the Industrial Disease Standards Panel demands absolute proof; it rejected the evidence of the McMaster study on a split vote, I might say. Had the truth been known and the thorium dust in this particular department identified, there is little doubt that the claims would have had a much better chance of being allowed and, as I said, maybe we would not have had some of the illness we have to this day.

Is the minister now prepared to move immediately to correct this gross and unfortunate injustice that has been done to these women suffering from cancer?

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** Around here we have been talking about the question of interfering in due process for quite a few days. Given that there is a clear process which is right now unfolding, that is, that the Industrial Disease Standards Panel, having submitted a report to the Workers' Compensation Board and the trade unions involved, and the Ontario Federation of Labour and some five other groups having made submissions to the board arguing, very forcefully, I agree, that the Industrial Disease Standards Panel is wrong, for my friend to suggest that I now intervene and tell the board it should eliminate this process which exists under statute, under the authority of law, and say, "I have decided, based on questions from the member for Hamilton East, that there shall be compensation," is simply a gross disregard for process.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

#### CHAIRMAN OF ONTARIO PLACE CORP

**Mr McLean:** My question is to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Is Patricia Starr, the chairman of Ontario Place who is now on leave of absence, still on the payroll?

**Hon Mr O'Neil:** As the member mentioned, the chairman is on a leave of absence. It is my understanding that there are no payments being made to her at this point at all. I might also tell the member that in the past, very little has been paid to the chairman in the way of even a per diem rate.

**Mr McLean:** The minister is well aware of what has taken place with regard to the situation around the Patti Starr affair, with regard to the charitable funds, with regard to the payments made to members of the Liberal Party. Now the election commission is looking into it. Are these the standards the minister likes to see in employees of his government? If they are not the standards, then why does he not do the decent thing and have her replaced? The summer is coming, it is busy and he needs a full-time chairman there. Why does he not replace her?

**Hon Mr O'Neil:** As I have mentioned to the member, and have mentioned in the past, the chairman of Ontario Place is on a leave of absence. A lot of these comments that have been made at this point are only allegations. We are waiting for the report to come in.

#### POLICIES ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

**Mr Fleet:** My question is for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. The minister recently announced a comprehensive series of liquor licensing reforms in Ontario. I am pleased that these reforms are founded on the principles of encouraging responsible drinking behaviour and a healthy lifestyle.

As the minister is aware from our many prior conversations, a portion of the riding of High Park-Swansea is a dry area. Several plebiscites, two in recent years, have strongly asserted the community's democratic decision to remain dry. Will the minister please confirm that, with the latest announcement, dry areas remain dry and that the rules for holding plebiscites will not be altered?

**Hon Mr Wrye:** I know the honourable member's constituents are concerned about it, because there has been a vote on the issue on a number of occasions in recent years. I can confirm to the member that there will be no change in the current wet and dry status. I can also confirm for those areas that are so-called damp areas—that is, some licensed establishments with limited use are allowed, but it is very limited—those existing areas will be allowed to continue. In the future there will be no damp areas allowed.

I can also say to the member that other than one minor modification, the way plebiscites have been dealt with in the past will continue to be the way in the future.

**Mr Fleet:** The announced government changes simplify many bewildering and archaic liquor regulations such as reducing the number of licence categories from 11 to 3. The changes also

better enable the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario to revoke permits of licensees who permit illegal activities to occur on the premises.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Fleet:** Would the minister please advise how these new provisions will be applied?

**Hon Mr Wrye:** The members of the third party were yelling, so I could not hear everything. Apparently, they thought that would be useful since they never brought any of these administrative and important reforms forward when they were the government.

But I can say to my friend that we on this side believe and the government believes that the reduction in the number of licences and other administrative reforms will make the powers of enforcement even easier. The government believes that the fact that there will be, in some of these reforms, an appeal only from the decision of the liquor licence board to Divisional Court and not an appeal to the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal will also help the enforcement.

Finally, I can say to the honourable member that in those cases where underage drinking does occur in facilities, the licence suspension will be an automatic seven days, and that is a change from the previous situation.

#### NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

**Mrs Grier:** My question is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and it concerns the Niagara Escarpment. Last April, Grey county took the rather unusual step of publishing notices to the effect that the county would no longer deal with severance applications because, as it was put in its advertisements, "of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' lack of action...and the Niagara Escarpment Commission's inconsistent approach to appeals to severances."

Instead of the minister telling Grey county to live up to its responsibilities under the Planning Act, the minister caved in to this pressure and directed his staff to prepare ministerial orders to delete local official plan coverage within that part of Grey county covered by the Niagara Escarpment plan.

Can the minister explain to the Legislature this scandalous abdication of his responsibility to uphold the Niagara Escarpment plan and to invite public comment when changes are made to the plan?

**Hon Mr Eakins:** There was some concern expressed, some difference between the commission and Grey county. The people in Grey county

have met with the commission. I understand that they are resolving it mutually together.

**Mrs Grier:** They may be resolving it, but they are certainly not protecting and preserving the escarpment, which is the minister's responsibility.

I want to remind the minister that also within the Niagara Escarpment plan is reference to the Food Land Guidelines. In fact, there is a very specific directive that development and creation of new lots should comply with the requirements of the Food Land Guidelines.

At the next meeting of the commission on 15 June, the commission will be considering a number of applications for severance which the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food has said do not comply with the Food Land Guidelines. Can the minister assure us that he is prepared to support the decision of the Niagara Escarpment Commission if it refuses these severances within Grey county?

1440

**Hon Mr Eakins:** I think what is very important is consultation. There has been excellent consultation with the commission. I recently met with the commission in Niagara Falls. I am prepared to meet with them whenever it is appropriate. I feel that my responsibility is a broad policy area. It is up to the commission, in consultation with others which they are doing, to look after the things the member is talking about, and they are doing it very well indeed. Consultation is what it is all about, and that is taking place.

#### WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

**Mr Pollock:** I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. As I am sure the minister is well aware, there has been tremendous damage done to apple orchards by deer. In fact, it costs approximately \$10,000 to set out a young orchard. I would like to present the minister with an apple tree that has been killed by deer. Would a page please take that over to the Minister of Natural Resources?

What is the minister going to do about this?

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** This looks like a bare-root tree, of which we plant 163 million in the Ministry of Natural Resources. It will green up if I send it back to the member, and he plants it and nurtures it for awhile. I guess, to answer the member's question, and it is a reasonable question, my responsibility is to take care of the deer herds and moose herds in Ontario. I want to tell him that we have been so successful that the end result is visible here, where we have these many deer.

Not that long ago, when they were not managed well, our moose herds had been reduced to some 60,000 and our deer herds were depleted. I am sorry, in fact, that we have been so successful in bringing back wildlife in Ontario that we now have to address the kind of question the member raises. Having raised it, I will examine how we can do something about it, but I am quite proud that we have returned wildlife to the province like never before.

**Mr Pollock:** I think it was the buck law that was brought out with the previous government that brought back the deer herds in Ontario. We are talking about something different here. In this particular orchard in Prince Edward county, it has been counted by some of the minister's staff that 89.7 per cent of the trees have been damaged by deer. Out of that 89.7 per cent, 20 of them have been mutilated, one of which the minister has already received. People cannot stand this cost. Once again, what is the minister going to do about it?

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** This is not an unusual situation. The Canadian wildlife minister is having the same problem on some of the areas in Lake Erie, and there is great concern, from two different views on this matter, whether those deer should be hunted and shot or whether they should be culled in another way. There are many factions out there now that have different ideas about what the minister should do to control this kind of impact on farmers. I certainly am not going to respond immediately that we are going to take initiatives that would not be well accepted across the broader interest in Ontario. While the member appears to bring forward a reasonable sort of problem, I am very much willing to examine it to see what should be done under the circumstances, but certainly he has to take into account that we are victims of our own success. There has never been, in the last many years, this kind of resurgence in fish and wildlife, that I am very proud of.

#### ENERGY CONSERVATION

**Mr Tatham:** My question is for the Minister of Energy. For a number of years I have been interested in the field of energy conservation. I believe we can and should do more as a society to use our energy resources wisely, to ensure that we can meet our future needs. The budget item containing a tax levied on a new fuel-inefficient cars sold in Ontario is an excellent step in the right direction. How are the Ministry of Energy and Ontario Hydro encouraging the people of

Ontario to conserve energy through improved energy efficiency?

**Hon Mr Wong:** I would like to indicate to the honourable member for Oxford that the government has been moving on four fronts: policy, legislation, regulation and program areas. Let me just give the member a few brief examples and highlights.

In the policy area, of course, the honourable member will know it is the government's first priority to encourage energy efficiency and conservation.

In the legislative area, the government has introduced the Power Corporation Amendment Act. In particular, it will enable Ontario Hydro to offer incentives for conservation.

In the regulatory area, as promised in the throne speech of 1987, last year the government passed the Energy Efficiency Act. I am pleased to indicate that the first regulations for setting the minimum efficiency level for electric hot water heaters and ground source heat pumps is imminent.

In the program area, the honourable member will be aware of the municipal street lighting pilot program and the municipal buildings energy efficiency program.

Last, but not least, let me mention that in the case of Ontario Hydro, it will be beginning major programs of conservation—

**The Speaker:** Thank you. Maybe you could save some of it for the supplementary.

**Mr Tatham:** I understand that Ontario Hydro set a target of 4,500 megawatts of demand management by the year 2000. What does the minister think of this number and how does he think we can be doing more?

**Hon Mr Wong:** The 4,500-megawatt target by the year 2000 is more credible and comprehensible when it is broken down into its component parts: a 2,000-megawatt target for incentive-driven conservation, 1,500 megawatts for information-driven conservation and 1,000 megawatts for load shifting. Let me say that the combined conservation targets aim to capture a substantial proportion of the economic technical potential. I believe that the target set by Ontario Hydro will be a significant challenge and I am pressing it to do more.

**The Speaker:** New question. The member for Hamilton West.

Interjection.

**Mr Allen:** The member for Burlington South (Mr Jackson) is doing his best, but we will bear with him.

## LABOUR DISPUTE

**Mr Allen:** I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. For eight weeks now and going into the ninth, my community has, in effect, been deprived of the services of the children's aid society. Some 120 workers who service 600 foster children and their families and are responsible for investigations into children at risk in the community and providing emergency services have not been there to meet the need.

The workers met with the minister in Oakville and he suggested that he would be able to facilitate a meeting with some of his staff. I asked him two weeks ago to respond to a particular proposition that I had as to some way in which assistance might be provided to the agencies to respond to the workers' needs. To date, neither of us has heard back. I wonder if the minister has something to tell us as to how he can involve himself in this situation helpfully in order to see that this impasse comes to an end.

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** The honourable member will recall that when he did raise this with me, I pointed out to him that when I met with the workers in Oakville I indicated that if they had any evidence whatsoever, as they had suggested to me, that there was mismanagement at that particular agency, then they certainly could discuss it with my staff, but I also made it very clear to them that this would not be part of the ongoing negotiations. I made a clear separation between those two issues.

With respect to the proposal the honourable member made to me, my recollection was that while I could not provide extra money for them this fiscal year, perhaps I could give some kind of three-year commitment. I did discuss that with my staff and it was pointed out to me that I have no way of knowing the kinds of funds that are going to flow to my ministry from the Treasury as a whole next year or the year after. Therefore, it would not be possible for me to give that kind of three-year commitment. I wish I could, but quite frankly I cannot. In my ministry, the only place that I can give that, because I have support of government to do it, is in long-term capital projects, but I cannot do that in operations costing for any agency of the government.

1450

**Mr Allen:** None the less, with respect to directly funded agencies, the minister does have to comply with arbitrated settlements and somehow that money does come from somewhere. The minister surely must recognize that he is the one who sets the terms of reference and is

responsible for the legislation which requires that services be in place. He is the one who provides the funding to see that those services are delivered in an appropriate fashion so they can have some stability and ongoing character. He is the phantom at the bargaining table whenever these parties sit down to discuss their future contracts.

Yet the agencies are unable even to maintain purchasing power in salaries, provide adequate legal protection for their workers, maintain recognition for experience to avoid the 65 per cent turnover in staff which is an impossible situation for children at risk to work with. Surely the minister, if he can do it for directly funded agencies, must have some way in which he can flow funding to other transfer agencies like the children's aid society in order to enable them to meet their legitimate needs and responsibilities of their staff.

**Hon Mr Sweeney:** That is not quite the way the system works. As the honourable member knows, there are two kinds of programs that are offered by children's aid societies: those which are mandated by legislation and those which the society chooses to take on on its own, the board of directors of the society obviously having a large say in that. While we are obligated by legislation to ensure that the society has sufficient funds to meet its mandated programs, we are not obligated by legislation to guarantee funding for its optional programs.

The member would well know that at the end of each year, any society can request an exceptional circumstances review and if it can demonstrate that its mandated costs have increased beyond what we have allocated to it, then I am obligated as the minister to find money somewhere within my budget to cover that, but I am not obligated for the nonmandated costs.

With respect to the increasing salary bills, I can point out to the member that within my ministry, as within all ministries of government, we have been allocated this year an increase of 3.5 per cent. That is in the direct operation of my ministry, not the agencies; they have been given more than that.

## UNIVERSITY FUNDING

**Mr Jackson:** I have a question for the Premier. He will perhaps be familiar with an article which appeared in the *Globe and Mail* on 31 May written by the government member for Ottawa South (Mr McGuinty). The article dealt with university funding and was entitled: "Why

**Don't Universities Stop Griping and Find Some Answers?"**

In that article, the Liberal member suggested several things. He said, "Many students in universities should not be there." He went on to suggest that costs students now pay are "clearly inadequate." Also, he went on to say that students are "a heavily subsidized minority" and, "Why not levy an education-cost rebate tax after they graduate?"

My question to the Premier is: Could he tell this House today if he agrees with these suggestions by a member of his own caucus?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Of course government policy is government policy. The member knows what it is, and it is articulated by the minister. So the answer to the member's question is that it is not. Now he is asking me the question: Does the member for Ottawa South have the right to write as he did, to speak as he does, to contribute ideas as he did? The answer is, of course he does. He is contributing to a very worthwhile debate. Frankly, he has a lot better ideas than the member ever had on the subject.

**Mr Jackson:** Perhaps the Premier might check the article in terms of the thrust and the direction the member takes and some of the assumptions he makes about university funding from this government, which in the past two years has declined as a percentage of the total allocations for the Ministry of Colleges and Universities; has been in decline over the previous year.

But on this point about students' right to access, this government and the Premier in particular before the last election in June 1987 said, "Every qualified student will find a place in a post-secondary institution in the province this fall." After the election, he modified that statement, in response to a question I raised, to say, "The government is committed to the maximum number of young people receiving post-secondary education."

Now we get a concept from his own government benches—

**The Speaker:** The question would be?

**Mr Jackson:** —that perhaps all students should not be entitled to attend university.

**The Speaker:** Your question?

**Mr Jackson:** Could the Premier please assure this House, the university students and the high school students who aspire to university education in this province that his government is not considering this kind of an education toll tax against students?

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr Jackson:** Would he please assure the House that he is not considering these suggestions by the member for Ottawa South?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** To help my honourable friend, I think the transfers to universities went up some 7.4 per cent, as I recall. The Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) will help me out if I am wrong. I think the transfer is some \$2.7 billion. It did not drop and my friend's facts are wrong.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I say as kindly as I possibly can, we believe there is space in the post-secondary institutions, colleges and universities, for all qualified young people—this is not absolutely a place they would like to be as a matter of first priority.

But what we are engaged in now is a debate and a discussion about post-secondary education. Everybody can make a contribution. I remember the member's former leader, one Mr Grossman, arguing that they should deregulate the fees, that they should, as I recall, cut the number of students and change it quite dramatically.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I say to my honourable friend, if he has any constructive ideas, let us know. But when he looks at the transfers to post-secondary education, starting when we came in in 1985 when we started the excellence funds, when we started the faculty renewal funds, when he looks at the money that is going in through the centres of excellence and the high-technology research, when we have increased the high-technology research and development budget by 10 per cent alone through the Premier's Council, I say to my friend I will compare our record to his. He, under his regime, would have turned this entire province into intellectual pygmies.

## HEALTH SERVICES

**Mr McGuigan:** My question is to the Minister of Health. The mayor of the town of Tilbury, Charles Carrick, and his council are concerned about the fact that they have only two doctors in town. Tilbury is a town of approximately 5,000 people. It is about 30 kilometres from Chatham and 50 kilometres from Windsor. I wonder if the minister can tell us what help we might be able to give the town of Tilbury in this matter.

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** I would like to thank the member for his question. I know of his interest in appropriate manpower planning, not only for the communities in his constituency but also for the people right across the province.

As he knows, one of the challenges of human resource planning is to make sure that in fact we can meet the needs which are appropriate to communities in rural parts or small towns of this province. I would say to him that what we are attempting to do is encourage communities to focus on the kinds of services, particularly primary care services, which are appropriate in the community.

Given these times of rapidly changing technology, we know that often it is in the interests of quality care in that community for people to go to a larger centre 30 or 50 miles away to seek more highly specialized care. I would say to him that as they have these discussions in their community, it is very important to focus on the impact of new technology and what kinds of services will yield effective quality care in the community.

#### TRANSIT SERVICES

**Ms Bryden:** I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. As the minister knows, the Toronto Transit Commission is considering hefty increases in fares on 1 January, 1990. A large part of the increase in costs anticipated by the TTC will be due to the new payroll tax in the provincial budget and to the new commercial concentration tax on parking lots and parking garages in the greater Toronto area.

Will the minister sit down with the TTC and Metro officials as soon as possible to review the current fund-sharing arrangements which leave the fare box and the riders bearing 68 per cent of TTC operating costs and the province bearing only 16 per cent?

**Hon Mr Fulton:** I would be only too happy to sit down with Mr Leach and others from the TTC. I meet with them on a regular basis. I met with Mr Leach earlier this week. I met with the vice-chairman as recently as yesterday.

1500

**Ms Bryden:** We have been waiting ever since the TTC rumours came out over a month ago for some sort of an indication of more provincial funding. If the minister is really interested in ending traffic congestion and getting people out of their cars on to public transit, does he think a large fare increase is going to contribute to that? Is it not good business to keep fares low and to improve TTC services instead of leaving the situation as it is now?

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** She has not been on that streetcar in years.

**Hon Mr Fulton:** My colleague is reminding me that the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms Bryden) has not been on the streetcar in years. Notwithstanding that, the member would be very much aware of the enormous investments that have been made in public transit in both the TTC—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Fulton:** Mr Speaker, I do not think the opposition really wants to hear the answer.

**Mr Reville:** We don't like your answer. It's dumb.

**Mr Breaugh:** It's called quality control.

**Mr Pope:** We will just wait.

**The Speaker:** As usual. Minister, do you have a response?

**Hon Mr Fulton:** I tried, Mr Speaker. The Lord knows I tried.

The member would be aware of the enormous investments this government has made in public transit in Toronto and across this province. She would be aware of the budget announcement of only a couple of weeks ago. There are \$400 million committed further to GO Transit, 25 per cent of whose riders are within the Metropolitan Toronto boundary.

In addition to that, there are \$200 million allocated additionally to public transit, and the member would be aware of the major share that the TTC absorbs of that enormous investment. This government has done more to improve public transit in and around the greater Toronto area and beyond and across this province than any government in the history of this province.

#### FARM TAX REBATE

**Mr Villeneuve:** To the Minister of Agriculture and Food: Many farmers were not only surprised but very disappointed when the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) was musing recently, and it was reported in the press, that the farm property tax rebate would be reduced or eliminated if a person applying earned more than \$40,000 from other sources, and we are not sure what those other sources might be considered as.

Can the Minister of Agriculture and Food tell the House which farm groups were advised to provide information to the Treasurer or to the Minister of Agriculture and Food regarding this very substantial cut in this very important program to agriculture?

**Hon Mr Riddell:** The details of the changes that will be made in the farm tax rebate have not yet been approved by cabinet, so I cannot help out the member. He feels that there are certain things in the farm tax rebate that may not be in there at all. Until I get cabinet approval on whatever changes will be brought about, I am afraid I cannot provide any details to the member.

**Mr Villeneuve:** The Treasurer very definitely made some statements. The figure of \$40,000 is very real and reported and attributed to him. Can the minister tell us: Is this hard fact or is he going to consult? Does the Ontario agricultural community have any input into what has been the most important ongoing program, started by the former government, which has been very well received by the agricultural community in Ontario? Whom is he consulting with?

**Hon Mr Riddell:** We always consult with the various farm organizations. As a matter of fact, there was consultation with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

**Mr Villeneuve:** That's not what Brigid told me on Monday.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Riddell:** Well, I can go back over dates where my staff met with a Cecil Bradley of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and discussed the changes that we were proposing for the farm tax rebate. But the details have not yet been worked out. When they are, the member will certainly be one of the first to know.

#### CHAIRMAN OF ONTARIO PLACE CORP

**Mr McLean:** I have a question for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. I wonder if the minister could tell me how many tickets Patti Starr sold at his fund-raiser.

**Hon Mr O'Neil:** I believe that Mrs Starr has helped in some of the fund-raisers that I have had. At one particular fund-raiser that I can think of she sold five tickets for me.

**Mr McLean:** I wonder if the minister feels that it is proper or appropriate that one of the political persons he has appointed from his party would sell tickets for a fund-raiser for the Liberal Party.

**Hon Mr O'Neil:** I would say that not only myself but the member would be best able to judge that by looking back over his own records and records of his members to see what happened there.

## PETITIONS

### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr Tatham:** "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government of Ontario in its discussions with the Ontario Teachers' Federation on amendments to the Teachers' Superannuation Act has refused to allow an equal partnership between teachers and government in management of the pension fund, establishment of an acceptable contribution increase, benefit adjustments, equitable treatment of future surpluses, and a satisfactory dispute resolution process,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to insist that the Treasurer of Ontario negotiate with the Ontario Teachers' Federation towards an equitable settlement."

The petition is signed by a total of 124 names, and I will affix my name to the bottom.

**The Speaker:** I am sorry. I will not be able to recognize any other members to present petitions until they are able to hear that I have recognized them.

### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Mr Pope:** I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and to the Lieutenant Governor in Council:

"As a registered nurse assistant at St Mary's General Hospital, I must express my anger and disappointment at the Labour minister's decision not to implement regulations to the health and safety act covering the health care sector. Our work is difficult enough without being denied the full protection under the act the regulations would provide.

"I deserve the same type of protection as any other worker in this province. I request that you immediately take this matter up with the minister and urge him to reconsider his decision."

This petition was delivered to me by Paulette Fraser, secretary-treasurer of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union. It is signed by Cathy Pope and 149 others, and I have added my signature to it.

### FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**Mr Wildman:** I have a petition signed by a number of residents of Algoma district. In line with your directives, I will not read the whereases:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"...we implore this House to refrain from further implementation of the French Language Services Act."

I have signed my name.

#### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr Jackson:** I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government of Ontario in its discussions with the Ontario Teachers' Federation on amendments to the Teachers' Superannuation Act has refused to allow an equal partnership between teachers and government in management of the pension fund, establishment of an acceptable contribution increase, benefit adjustments, equitable treatment of future surpluses, and a satisfactory dispute resolution process,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to insist that the Treasurer of Ontario negotiate with the Ontario Teachers' Federation towards an equitable settlement."

This petition is signed by the staff at Kings Road Public School in the great riding of Burlington South. It has my signature and support.

1510

#### FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**Mr Morin-Strom:** I have a number of petitions signed by residents of my community of Sault Ste Marie with regard to French-language services. It is similar to a number of other petitions that have been read in totality in the past by members in recent days, so I will not read all the whereases.

However, it is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and it asks, in terms of its major point:

"...we implore this House to refrain from further implementation of the French Language Services Act."

While I myself cannot support this petition in any way, I have affixed my signature and present it on behalf of local constituents.

#### NATUROPATHY

**Mr Sterling:** I am presenting a petition on behalf of Doris Sweetnam, the president of the Natural Healers Association, today.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

This is signed by 112 constituents from the Ottawa-Carleton area and from other areas of Ontario and it is signed by myself.

#### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Ms Bryden:** I am pleased to present a petition on the Ontario Teachers' Federation negotiations on the Teachers' Superannuation Act. It is from nine members of the Ontario Teachers' Federation in the city of Toronto and it is addressed:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government of Ontario in its discussions with the Ontario Teachers' Federation on amendments to the Teachers' Superannuation Act has continually refused to permit an equal partnership between teachers and government in management of the pension fund, establishment of an acceptable contribution increase, benefit adjustments, equitable treatment of future surpluses and a binding arbitration process...."

I have signed the petition. I support it and am pleased to present it.

#### HOME CARE

**Mrs Sullivan:** I have a petition from 38 people from the Halton Centre area, addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, relating to the funding of home care and visiting nurses' services, particularly the Victorian Order of Nurses.

I have affixed my signature to the petition.

#### PROPERTY SPECULATION

**Mr Laughren:** I have a petition from thousands of people mostly from the Toronto area which reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Given that property speculation in Ontario has contributed to driving up the cost of home

ownership, to increasing the cost of building nonprofit housing and to rent increases for tenants because speculators are rewarded under the provincial government's rent review law, we demand that the government of Ontario impose a tax on the capital gain on nonprincipal residences and land, so that:

"100 per cent of the profit is taxed away on resales within one year;

"75 per cent of the profit is taxed away on resales within two years;

"50 per cent of the profit is taxed away on resales within three years;

"25 per cent of the profit is taxed away on resales within four years."

There are thousands here. I have affixed my name to it because I think it is a splendid idea.

#### SECURITY IN PREMISES USED BY PUBLIC

**Mr Sterling:** I have the first petition of many that will be presented to this Legislature.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We request that the Ministry of the Attorney General withdraw Bill 149, An Act to amend the Trespass to Property Act, which we believe is unnecessary and without mandate. While we respect the rights of minorities and youth, whom Bill 149 alleges to protect, we oppose the way in which the proposed legislation will erode the ability of owners and occupiers to provide a safe and hospitable environment for their patrons or customers.

"We are further concerned about the legislation's potential for increasing confrontation in the already difficult process of removing individuals who create disturbances on publicly used premises."

That is signed by 58 people from the great riding of Carleton and I have signed the petition myself.

#### SCHOOL OPENING AND CLOSING EXERCISES

**Mr South:** I have two petitions to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas we believe the amendment to regulation 262 relating to the collective recitation of the Lord's Prayer in opening or closing exercises in public schools deprives many

Ontario citizens of an established freedom, we therefore object to the loss of this freedom."

This is signed by a number of constituents of my riding and it is also signed and endorsed by myself.

I have a second petition in the same manner, also signed by a number of my constituents and signed by myself.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Mr Morin-Strom:** I have another set of petitions signed by residents of Sault Ste Marie addressed to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. I will leave out the "whereases" again.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

I heartily endorse this petition and have signed it as well, and I present it on behalf of local residents.

#### LANGUAGE OF DEBATE

**Mr McLean:** I have a petition signed by 84 people that I have been asked to present to the Legislature:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We do strongly oppose the Deputy Speaker, Jean Poirier, using French to conduct business in the Legislature of an English-speaking province. French is not the official language of this province.

"We also strongly object to the abuse given to Don Cousens, MPP, who, while representing his constituents, posed the pertinent question about the use of French in the Legislature.

"We strongly resent the ultimate insult to the taxpaying people of this province when the NDP leader, Bob Rae, not only attacked Mr Cousens but did it in French."

#### BOUNTY ON WOLVES

**Mr McLean:** I have another petition that I have been asked to present to the Legislature signed by 589 people, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We are opposed to the province eliminating the bounty system on wolves."

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Miss Martel:** I have a petition addressed to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government to scrap Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act:

"Because Bill 162 contains the most significant changes to the Ontario system of workers' compensation contemplated for many years and yet, as was confirmed through the public hearings on the bill, was developed without an adequate process of public consultation with the stakeholders; and

"Because Bill 162 represents an attack on injured workers and their families and all those people who have fought over the years to achieve fairness and justice for injured workers and their families; and

"Because Bill 162 will eliminate the current lifetime pension for lifetime disability and replace it with a dual award system combining a lump sum and actual wage-loss award benefits, that has been rejected by injured workers, their advocacy groups, community legal workers and lawyers working on their behalf and by the trade union movement since it was first proposed for implementation in Ontario by the 1980 Weiler report and the Conservative government's 1981 white paper; and

"Because Bill 162 virtually ignores the devastating critique and recommendations of the Majesky-Minna task force report on vocational rehabilitation, which was submitted to the Minister of Labour and suppressed by the Liberal government until April 1988; and

"Because Bill 162 gives legislative form to the unacceptable and reactionary policy of restricting access to supplement awards announced by the Workers' Compensation Board in 1987; and

"Because throughout Bill 162, injured workers are made subject to increased discretionary power at the hands of the Workers' Compensation Board and made subject to ever more intrusive and demeaning assaults on their dignity, their privacy and their right to fair and just treatment."

This is signed by nine women who are Victims of Mining Environment in Timmins. I agree with

them entirely and I have affixed my signature to it.

**The Speaker:** I am sorry to interrupt the House, but I might remind the member once again that other members today had informed me they had of course heeded what the Speaker had said, and I appreciate that very much. It is not necessary to place all the whereases. It is certainly necessary to place the material allegations made by the constituents and I hope all members will follow that in the future.

1520

### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr Kormos:** I have a petition addressed:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to 31 May, 1982, have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"The proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

It is signed by nine persons and by myself.

### REPORT BY COMMITTEE

#### STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr Furlong from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr5, An Act respecting Certain Land in the Town Plot of Gowganda in the District of Timiskaming;

Bill Pr10, An Act to revive 561239 Ontario Inc;

Bill Pr12, An Act respecting The Madawaska Club Limited;

Bill Pr22, An Act to continue The Corporation of the Village of Killaloe Station under the name of The Corporation of the Village of Killaloe.

Your committee begs to report the following bill as amended:

Bill Pr19, An Act to revive the Port Bruce Boat Club.

Your committee further recommends that the fees, and the actual cost of printing at all stages

and in the annual statutes, be remitted on Bill Pr5, An Act respecting Certain Land in the Town Plot of Gowganda in the District of Timiskaming.

Motion agreed to.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILL

#### CITY OF KINGSTON AND TOWNSHIPS OF KINGSTON, PITTSBURGH AND ERNESTOWN ACT, 1989

Mr Keyes moved first reading of Bill Pr24, An Act respecting the City of Kingston and the townships of Kingston, Pittsburgh and Ernestown.

Motion agreed to.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE RATES CONTROL ACT, 1989

Hon Mr Elston moved second reading of Bill 10, An Act to control Automobile Insurance Rates.

**Hon Mr Elston:** On today's date, I finally welcome the opportunity of getting on with the legislation, if that is possible.

This is an important first step in a series we are taking now to deal with the issue of providing fair compensation to those people involved in automobile accidents. We are, as everyone knows, now expecting a report from the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board dealing with some deliberations it has had on matters of product alternatives to those we have now, in order to check into how we can provide a reasonably priced product that provides good coverage to the citizens of Ontario with respect to their insurance needs.

This particular bill, which we are about to consider on second reading and then, as I understand, move to committee for a couple of days of hearings, deals with an interim measure to provide for a capped rate of 7.6 per cent on vehicle insurance, with some minor exceptions concerning those particular vehicles that can now operate under the Highway Traffic Act without requiring permits.

I can tell the people of the province that I am exceedingly pleased to be able to move forward with this after waiting a long time to bring this into the House, but I anticipate and thank my critics for helping to expedite the discussion of this matter on second reading so that we can move to committee, bring it back and then get on with the more intense discussions that will be

required as we consider product reform in the insurance industry.

I am particularly keen to do clause-by-clause analysis and do not propose to do it on second reading, other than to say that 7.6 per cent is a number with which we have associated ourselves because it represented a benchmark increase that was given under the previous series of hearings that were conducted by the automobile insurance board when they were discussing the requirements under their particular piece of legislation.

On its own, it does not represent final solutions for all ills that are associated with automobile insurance, but a very intensive study now at the board, undertaken by the Minister of Financial Institutions, I think will advance the discussion of issues other than the current capping issue.

There is no doubt that the delay in discussing this matter has caused some degree of concern because it has put into question the effect of this bill, but I can tell the people of the province that the legislation itself is designed to take effect as of 17 April 1989, when, of course, I made the original statement of the intention of the government to move forward in this way.

There are some flexible provisions in the bill that will allow the Minister of Financial Institutions and the board to make certain technical adjustments if that is required. In the short term this bill will be in place, we believe that we in fact do require the flexibility to meet particular circumstances that may be raised from time to time, which requires us to have that flexibility.

I was quite pleased to see the number of members opposite who were interested in this bill. Currently, that amounts to my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr Kormos) whose presence here is helpful, bearing in mind that if he were not here, there would be no critic available. To him may I say thank you for hanging around for the debate. Obviously, the rest are not too interested. I look forward to his comments. We have had some brief discussions prior to today, what seems like several months ago now, but was in reality only two or three weeks ago. He has raised some issues I know he will want to raise again here and which I am sure will be raised again as we go into committee to discuss the clause-by-clause content of this legislation.

I suspect as well that from time to time we will have brought to our attention specific issues around individual policies that will be raised by constituents of all the members. I might, as I have done on other occasions in this Legislative Assembly, ask for those members to bring those

issues to my attention at the very earliest opportunity, so that we can seek ways of assisting their constituents in dealing with their particular problems.

With that, I think perhaps what I will do is just indicate the idea that this bill does cover all classes of automobile insurance. The rate for that is set at a 7.6 per cent increase from the last date of increase. In fact, we are in that way putting a cap temporarily on automobile insurance premiums. I will say that we are looking forward to product reform to take us much further into dealing with other issues.

We will look at those discussions to deal with what I think are found by a number of people in the province to be understandably worrisome difficulties in coming up with fair coverage under automobile insurance. If we can, for the benefit of the people of the province, get on with the discussion on second reading, the speedy assignment of this matter to committee and finally bringing it back for third reading, we can then get on with a much more major discussion of issues surrounding automobile insurance, which I think would be highly productive for all of us.

With that, Mr Speaker, I thank you for your attention and look forward to the interventions of my other colleagues.

1530

**Mr Kormos:** I have, of course, as the minister indicates, discussed this with him briefly after reading this bill and he undoubtedly refers to my concern about section 8, which is the power to make regulations and indeed the areas that those regulations entail, but perhaps of even greater concern are the matters that the bill does not address; matters that are timely and certainly timely to the personnel involved in those matters.

I spoke recently with a gentleman from Scarborough, one John Mullen. This man is 57 years old. He has never had a claim on his home insurance or his car insurance. A few years ago, he changed insurance companies to Federated Insurance, a Manitoba-based company. Both his home and his car are insured with them. Within the last week or so, he received a registered letter from that insurer and in part the letter said, speaking of the cancellation of his home insurance:

"This action is a direct result of the overall adverse claims experience in the market in Toronto and the limited opportunities for improvement in the future. Thank you for having allowed us to provide you with your past insurance needs."

They sent him a refund cheque for what they purported was the balance of his home insurance coverage. This man, Mr Mullen, then called Winnipeg to see if the same thing was going to happen to his car insurance and he was told that indeed it would, on August 30. He was told as well that the statute required a period of time of notice and that notice would not be given until the appropriate period of time began to run.

Now Mr Mullen, after having been a good, paying consumer, one who has paid his premiums regularly for years and years and years, indeed decades, finds himself without insurance that he expected would be renewed and, indeed, in the case of his household insurance, with it being cancelled prematurely. He is thrust into a market which is certainly not a buyer's market; it is very much a seller's market when it comes to insurance coverage, automobile insurance especially.

I know we have talked about this before, but I have, when addressing the matter of Bill 10, some great concern about the approximately 40,000 holders in this province of Advocate General insurance. I know that brokers across the province have been advising their insured persons of the course of events that was initiated by the federal government and that the insurance coverage by Advocate, although technically still there, is one that cannot be relied upon. There have been hundreds, probably thousands, of people across the province who have been put into a position where they purchased new insurance notwithstanding that the Advocate General insurance has been paid for, that the premiums were paid in advance and that there were, in many cases, up to nine and 10 months left to run in that particular policy.

I have concerns like those of Katie Allen from the E. Douglas Allen Insurance brokerage firm in Burlington, who wrote to the minister addressing the letter, "Dear Mr Elston," and wrote on 4 May 1989, "A quick follow-up letter to give more information on what is going on out there in the insurance industry.

"Today, we had an application refused"—she is speaking of a customer of theirs—"because the client's car was over six years old. It was a 1982 model car. The only market left for us is Facility.

"Another one refused because he had an at-fault accident in 1987. That particular customer will not take Facility. He is going to sell his car. You tell me: is that fair to the public, because they happen to have had the misfortune of being insured by CIGNA? Have you any answers down there or are all the small brokers going to be

forced out of business? If you have any answers, let us know before it is too late."

I am concerned about the problems that were encountered by one Donald Knoll from Rolling Acres Drive in Welland. He wrote in March 1989. He indicates that his son had two very minor accidents. He writes that his one error was perhaps to call the police so everything would be legal. He was charged with careless driving; no damage was incurred.

"My insurance dropped him, with my premium being penalized for six years, even though he bought his own car and was paying penalty on his own policy. After three years, we find out that this is the case. They say, 'Had he died, we would pay for six years.' Why is there no law that insurance companies must advise the client of any changes in insurance, traffic tickets, etc., causing increases?

"My daughter just nudged a woman's car and both agreed there was no damage. Two years later, she found out the insurance company had just paid out \$12,000 in whiplash to the woman and the insurance company dropped her. Why was she not told or included in the case of settlement, so she could give her story? We are being held ransom in Gestapo-like manner, as if we were too stupid to understand."

That is signed by Mr Knoll, as I indicated.

I am concerned about a woman like Denise Lutka, who lives at 67 McNaughton Road in Welland and who drives a 1977 Oldsmobile Delta 88. Last year, through Economical Mutual Insurance Co, she had insurance coverage and was paying premiums in the amount of \$462 per year. This year, with the renewal of her policy by Progressive Casualty Insurance Co of Willowdale, Ontario, she is paying \$716 for every six months. She had hail damage and vandalism to her vehicle, but, as she indicates to me, no at-fault accidents incurred while she was operating her own vehicle.

I am concerned about a young man like Gino Pasquariello, of 61 Thompson Avenue in Thorold, who is 24 years old and works as a letter carrier. He drives a 1984 Chev Camaro. He had been insured with Commercial Union for two years. In March 1989, he was involved in an accident at a school crossing, but was not charged as a result of the accident. He was told by the police that the accident was not his fault and that is the reason why he was not charged. He received a letter from his broker saying:

"Dear Gino:

"As per our numerous conversations, this is to inform you that, as of 12:01 on April 30, 1989,

you will have no coverage with Commercial Union. I have no alternative market other than Pafco, which is a Facility company. Your price for one year is as follows: \$2,964." That is as compared to the \$1,264 that he had paid the year previously with Commercial Union, not only for the Camaro, but for a 1977 Monarch which he used as a winter vehicle.

Again, there was no liability assessed against Mr Pasquariello; no fault attributed to him by the investigating police officers. Yet, there is a denial of coverage by Commercial Union, and a young man who has been driving for approximately eight years with no other claims, no other highway traffic offences, is forced into Facility insurance at more than double what he was previously paying.

I have concerns about the recipient of a letter from Murtaugh and Smith Insurance Services Ltd in Toronto, one Carl Haig, who, in April 1989, received a letter that said:

"Dear Carl:

"As you may be aware, the auto insurance industry has tightened up considerably in the last few months. Our office, in particular, has felt this change. As a result, we are unable to offer renewal of your auto insurance without both six years proof of insurance coverage and some supporting business: that is, a home owner's insurance or a tenant's package.

"If you are able to furnish this information and business to our office, we will be most happy to provide you with insurance coverage for your auto and home. If, however, you cannot provide this information, we would then be unable to provide coverage, as the companies require this. It would then be in your best interests to look for coverage elsewhere. Please feel free to discuss this matter with myself or Brian Smith."

**1540**

That is an incredible scenario, that a broker would write to an insured and indicate that it was at the direction of the insurance company, the insurer, that that person will only be insured for auto insurance if that same person also purchases other types of insurance from the same company.

I am concerned about Sonia Fernandez of Willowdale, who had been covered by Constitution Insurance Co of Canada, who was paying insurance on her 1981 Mazda premium in the amount of \$915, who is told by Constitution Insurance Co: "We regret we are unable to offer renewal of your vehicle insurance with Constitution. However, due to the introduction of compulsory automobile insurance in Ontario, we attempt to provide insurance for all automobile

owners. Therefore, as a service to you, we have made arrangements to continue your protection with Guardian Insurance on the following basis," and that is to the tune of \$2,732.

That, by the way, is Facility Association coverage, although it is not disclosed to Mrs Fernandez in that letter. That is a problem we have had on more than one occasion. When I spoke with the superintendent of insurance about that, he indicated to me that under the new procedures there would be an element of disclosure in the forms provided to an insured person, and that in view of that, the superintendent's office—that is my information—was not prepared to take any action to ensure that customers of insurance companies are advised when indeed they are being referred to Facility Association as compared to merely another insurance company.

What happens when there is not that disclosure is that an insured person genuinely believes, as a result of what he or she is told, that what he is getting is the best possible price on the market. We all know that brokers do not act for more than two, perhaps three insurance companies at any given point in time—

**Hon Mr Elston:** More than that.

**Mr Kormos:** Sometimes more, but in small communities like the one I come from, at the heart of the Niagara Peninsula, Welland-Thorold, in small communities where I come from the insurance brokers tell me they handle on the average two, three, perhaps four insurance companies at any given point in time. The misperception the customer has, as I say, when he is referred to Facility Association is that he is getting the best possible price out there: \$2,732.

The impression Mrs Fernandez had, as a result of receiving this letter from Constitution of Canada, was that indeed she was being insured by a regular insurer and that that was as good as it was going to get. It does not indicate to her that indeed she is being referred to an association of last resort, if you will, and does not give her that information so she can then go out and shop with other brokers.

**Hon Mr Elston:** I know that's a problem. Why don't we deal with it in the other bill as opposed to this one?

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr Kormos:** The minister is saying, "Why are we talking about this now?"

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** Mr Speaker, please remind the minister that he gets a two-minute period to respond after, if he wants.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Yes. One person at a time, please. The member will address his remarks through the Speaker.

**Hon Mr Elston:** He's running out of cogent thoughts and I was just trying to help him.

**Mr Kormos:** I appreciate that. But the problem is that there are immediate problems out there in the community across the province that are not being addressed, certainly by Bill 10. What it requires and what it calls for is a reflection back to 23 April 1987—that was certainly before my time here—when certain announcements were made.

I have the press release distributed by the ministry, and it is 23 April 1987, "Kwinter Announces New Auto Insurance Legislation." It reads, "An immediate cap on all rates for motor vehicle insurance categories in Ontario was ordered today by Financial Institutions Minister Monte Kwinter as part of a comprehensive package of new auto insurance legislation."

Mr Kwinter said at a press conference, "It is clear to the general public and it is clear to me, the automobile insurance rate structure is arbitrary. While overall profitability increases"—profitability of the insurance companies—"some consumers continue to pay unjustifiably higher premium rates with no recourse for their shabby treatment in the marketplace."

The minister went on to say that "the government had deliberately given the insurance industry both the time and opportunity to voluntarily improve market fairness, 'but their response has been inadequate.'"

He then went on to announce a series of legislative initiatives. The minister is far more familiar with them than I am, because he was there when they were announced: capping all insurance premiums as of 23 April 1987, the creation of the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board and the creation of a consumer insurance bureau, headed by an insurance advocate to provide consumer information and assist consumers with complaints.

In addition, he promised "government management and control of the statistical information base" and "a requirement that insurers offer consumers the option of buying a policy only for the named drivers within a household to ease the problem of good drivers being penalized for having high-risk drivers in their home."

He said, "Premium rates will no longer be determined in isolation by vested business interests. Consumer groups, individuals and the government will be able to argue their cases during public hearings conducted by the board."

We know what happened to the board process, because after spending more than \$7 million of taxpayers' money, the board ended up with recommendations that entailed increases to drivers' premiums across this province ranging from 17 per cent up to 80 per cent or possibly even 90 per cent, depending upon which reports one reads.

The minister mentions the downward trends, which he cited regularly here in this Legislature during question period. He spoke of the 16- or 17-year-old male who enjoyed modest reductions in his premiums, if indeed anybody would sell him that insurance. The reality of it is that there was nothing inherent in the legislation to require an insurer to sell insurance at the prescribed rate notwithstanding that the person had the cash in hand and was prepared to pay it.

It begs the real question, which is that the auto insurance board process did not amount to a substantial reduction or any reduction in auto insurance premiums in the province. Indeed, it constituted an increase in rates, some of them very dramatic, generating even more so the aspect of unaffordability for many, if not most, drivers in the province.

The minister speaks now of the new direction of the board, which is to consider product reform. Of course, that is the insurance companies' no-fault proposal. The initial comments about no-fault insurance, in what is nothing more than a real selling job, were to the effect that it would constitute the groundwork for reductions in premiums.

But the board's own lawyer, Donald Rogers, counsel for the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board, was quoted in an article published in the *Globe and Mail* on 5 June as saying that experience in both the United States and Canada indicates that no-fault car insurance schemes do not mean lower car insurance rates. He went on to say, "I think it...fair to say that no clear trend of reduced or more stable prices can be demonstrated in the no-fault regimes."

The same article indicates that the average price of automobile insurance in Ontario is currently \$760 a year. Contrast that with the information contained in the 1988 annual report of the Insurance Corp of British Columbia, which indicates that the average premium there is \$516; and the rate for 1989 in British Columbia is approximately \$550, some \$210 less than the average rate in Ontario for 1989. That is before the 7.6 per cent increase that is proposed by this particular legislation.

As I indicated, subsection 8(1) of Bill 10 is, quite frankly, most frightening. Subsection 8(1) permits some incredible powers to the Lieutenant Governor in Council. It reads:

"The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations,

"(a) permitting insurers to increase their capped rates in accordance with the regulations;

"(b) exempting insurers and the Facility Association from the requirements of this act in respect of such categories of automobile insurance, such coverages or such classes of risk exposure as may be set out in the regulations;

"(c) permitting the Facility Association to increase Facility Association rates in accordance with the regulations."

#### 1550

It has to be remembered that section 10 of this bill indicates that it is going to be in effect until the end of December 1990—

[Failure of sound system]

**The Deputy Speaker:** There is a problem. We do not have your sound.

There you go. The sound is back. You may proceed.

**Mr Kormos:** I will start around two minutes ago.

The real problem with section 8 is that the cabinet, in secrecy, can impose increases on drivers insured by any given insurance company or any group of insurance companies arbitrarily, without any accountability, without any notice to the insured party and indeed in a process that, as I say, is also obviously secret.

It is no secret that we in the New Democratic Party are advocates of a public, driver-owned, nonprofit auto insurance system. Indeed, that is the one area of investigation that the government has not ventured into, either on its own or through the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board.

The auto insurance board is now investigating the insurance companies' proposal of no-fault insurance. The experience in the United States, as indicated by Donald Rogers, is that it is not going to produce lower insurance rates. Even the consultant hired by the board, which announced in its initial release that there would be some savings, concedes that the savings came mainly through the reduction of benefits paid to accident victims.

Furthermore, the savings were calculated on the basis of a hypothetical benchmark insurance rate, not existing average rates. What happened was that inflated rates were accepted, calculation

of reduction of benefits was interposed on them, and that resulted in a chimerical saving to Ontario drivers.

**Mr Runciman:** What saving?

**Mr Kormos:** Chimerical. We—and this is no secret—are advocates of a public, driver-owned, nonprofit auto insurance system. For years, we have been hearing complaints in this party about the car insurance provided by the private corporations. The premiums are too high; the services range from inadequate to lousy; their efficiency is low; their practices are arbitrary; their methods are unfair, and the advertising of the insurance industry is not only misleading but unreal.

When we discuss public auto insurance, we do encounter the difficulty experienced by many persons in the confusion of a no-fault system as proposed by the auto insurance industry currently in Ontario with our proposal of driver-owned car insurance. Quite frankly, we should acknowledge right here and now that they are two different ideas.

When we talk about driver-owned car insurance, we are talking about who controls car insurance, the working people of the province or private corporations. When we talk about no-fault, we are talking about a form of car insurance and claims settlement, no matter who controls it.

We want greatly improved benefits for accident victims, no matter who caused the accident. We also believe just as strongly that people must retain their right to sue. Quite frankly, it is a matter that the proposal on the part of the private auto insurance industry in this province and the government is one that would give the insurance industry the power to determine what ought to be provided by way of compensation to injured persons. When we have not been able to trust the insurance industry to determine fair and appropriate premiums, why should we trust it to determine fair and appropriate compensation?

It remains that it is essential in any fair system that there be the right of access to a dispute settlement mechanism. Call it suing, call it what you will, but we insist that any new auto insurance system in this province retain the right to sue.

We in the New Democratic Party did not make auto insurance an issue; the private insurance corporations did, quite frankly, with their greed and discrimination.

We will continue to fight for an insurance system that is affordable and fair, and that insurance system is a driver-owned car insurance system. It is not a new idea; it is over 40 years old

here in Canada. It has worked well in the three provinces in which it was originally introduced by New Democrats—in 1946 in Saskatchewan, in 1971 in Manitoba and in 1973 in British Columbia.

What is interesting is that the private insurance corporations like to tell us how unprofitable the car insurance business really is. To hear them tell it, sticking people for an extra 20 per cent or so on their premiums is really costing them hundreds of millions of dollars every year.

Public relations is something that they specialize in and it ought to be because, after all, they can afford to pay for the creative people to write their material. However, public relations is a very different business from accounting or being straight with people. The insurance industry does not publish the detailed information it takes to be able to evaluate or corroborate its claims. For example, they do not break down profit for parts of their business activities other than when it suits them.

This party, the New Democratic Party, has called repeatedly on the insurance industry to open its books. Even when the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board called upon them to produce statistics and data, it was data that was so confusing and so devious in its quality that the board's own consultant bursar commented most strongly on the lack of quality of that data.

We believe in greatly improved benefits for accident victims, no matter who caused the accident. As I have indicated before, we also believe that people must retain the right to sue. We believe that benefits for accident victims should be payable regardless of who is at fault. The need for assistance is no different, the time and money lost from being away from work is no different and the financial, physical and emotional costs of long-term injury or disability are no different. The only distinction is who is judged to be responsible, and we think the police and the courts are the agencies to sort that out. If charges are warranted, let them be laid. If convictions result, so be it. As indicated already, we believe that drivers' records ought to influence their premium charges, but we reject the notion that benefits ought to be tied to fault.

In fact, in Ontario right now, drivers have no-fault accident benefits, but the amount that is available, a maximum of \$140 a week, is woefully inadequate. Accordingly, we believe this should be increased to cover a much greater proportion of peoples' lost income if they lose time from work.

We believe that a fairer replacement rate for lost income will result in fewer costly and lengthy court cases. Many people now are forced to sue simply to recover lost income that ought to be recoverable through standard benefits without recourse to litigation.

There is an additional argument for fairness here as well. With maximum no-fault benefits so low and the costs of court action so high, insurers often take advantage of drivers by offering inadequate settlements that may be preferable overall to the cost of going to court. With fairer no-fault benefits, this sort of financial squeeze would be much less common. We believe in what is basically known as a modified no-fault plan. It is fairer, it is cheaper to administer and it would result in savings to Ontario drivers.

Our concern is that this legislation is designed to increase automobile insurance premiums in the province and to provide a mechanism whereby secret increases can be imposed on drivers at the whim of the insurance industry and the government. We cannot support legislation that contains that type of arbitrariness, that type of secrecy and that type of incredible power allocated to the private automobile insurance industry. We continue to call upon the government to investigate a public nonprofit driver-owned automobile insurance system, one that would deliver insurance fairly and affordably.

**Hon Mr Elston:** Although the honourable gentleman has raised some very interesting issues and a series of letters which have raised some other issues, I think he would heed my opening remarks which are to the extent that this particular bill is interim in nature and is designed to deal only with the rates in the interim. In fact, the bill has an existence only until the end of 1990 at the longest, or earlier if we can get the product reform in place, which I think we will be able to do. That will deal with the issues of disclosures and the issue of people who are put into a Facility without their knowledge.

I think that his points in many ways are fair ones and I do not want to say that we are not interested in them because we are interested in a whole series of his presented issues.

1600

The reading of the series of letters which has become a popular technique with the opposition parties of delivering notice of items for debate is an interesting stroll through the auto insurance series of issues, but they are issues which have a much broader context in this particular piece of legislation. I acknowledge their importance, but

not the appropriate nature of their being raised at the moment.

I am happy to have him share with me those letters. Sometimes when people indicate that they have minor accidents and that they have not been charged or whatever, it still does not become clear to me whether or not there were major claims on their insurance coverage. If there are major claims on their insurance coverage, then of course to the company it is a claim that has to be paid out.

So I am pleased to look into the letters which were raised that deal with the issues of the withdrawal from the market by Federated, the issue of being put in the Facility from others and the issue raised by the member for Welland-Thorold which suggests that the broker was not being upfront with one of the constituents. I am quite pleased to deal with those in another forum which will come later.

**Mr Kormos:** How long is this going to go on in terms of the minister directing his board to engage in, let's say, an investigation of product reform, when the ministry still has not addressed any of its attention to consideration of a public system which in the western provinces has demonstrated itself to be more efficient and less costly?

Why is the board not being directed to conduct examinations of that? Why is the emphasis on a system that is going to reduce benefits—the board's own council acknowledges that—not reduce premiums and generate more profits for the insurance industry? Really, is it not time to take the bull by the horns, to start considering the prospect of public auto insurance, notwithstanding the over \$100,000 that the private insurance industry invested in 1987 in the Liberal Party campaign across this province?

Surely, there is a point in time when they have been repaid in kind twofold, threefold or fourfold. If the minister is really interested in protecting the interests of drivers across the province, he is going to look at the British Columbia model, he is going to look at the Manitoba and Saskatchewan models and he is going to ignore the myths that have been perpetrated by the insurance industry about these models.

Not only is British Columbia not subsidized, it generates tax revenue. In 1988 it generated tax revenue by virtue of a premium tax to the tune of \$30 million and change. The ICBC is not subsidized and is also a source of revenue for the government itself to the tune of \$30 million and change. Those are the types of systems we should

be looking at if we are going to improve the quality of insurance service to people in this province and drivers across Ontario.

**Mr Runciman:** At the outset I want to make reference to the minister's comments earlier when he made note of my absence. I was sitting in the lobby listening and I am sorry I offended his tender sensibilities. Apparently he fell out of bed this morning, but on the wrong side of the bed. In any event, I want to indicate that I listened very closely to his contribution, brief as it was. I have been listening to his interjections here this afternoon with interest and his attempts to instruct members of the opposition in the kinds of things they should be saying during this debate.

I have been involved in this exercise for some time as one who sat on the standing committee on administration of justice during the Bill 2 hearings process with his friend sitting beside him, the member for York Mills (Mr J. B. Nixon), who could have advised him on a number of things that certainly were made known to us as members of that committee some time ago. But his reaction just a few months ago in response to the serious dislocation that occurred was unbelievable with respect to the evidence presented to us back in 1987 and early 1988.

I am assuming the member for York Mills is going to be participating in this debate. I wanted to make mention of the fact that I saw his picture in a magazine earlier this year where he was identified as one of the 10 sexiest men in Toronto. I am not sure who wrote the article. It was either Patricia Starr or someone who was extremely short-sighted. No, I like the member and I very much appreciated his input during the Bill 2 hearings and respect his knowledge on this issue. I look forward to his contribution during the debate. I am sure it will be most helpful.

I want to talk a bit about the money that has been wasted on this whole exercise. The minister has certainly heard a bit of that.

**Hon Mr Elston:** What does that have to do with a 7.6 cap? Are you supporting the bill? Listen, talk about anything you want, Bob, but are you supporting the 7.6 cap?

**Mr Runciman:** We are talking about the \$7 million plus that this automobile insurance board spent to go through this exercise, this board that was supposed to be autonomous, not involved with the government whatsoever, no political input, no political decision-making, no back-room gamesmanship. But what was the response in the media in respect to the minister's surprise announcement in April? "So much for the

autonomy of the government's autonomous insurance board," says the Toronto Sun. "In a brazen display of save-your-bacon expediency, Financial Institutions minister Murray Elston proved the board to be what everyone knew it was, a political puppet."

The Toronto Star, which is not, as a rule, known to be terribly critical of the current government of this province—

**Hon Mr Elston:** On auto insurance. Grow up.

**Mr Runciman:** Generally.

I will quote again: "Yesterday's decision by Ontario's Liberal government to decapitate its independent insurance board and decide 1988-89 rate increases in the political back room should not surprise anyone." It certainly did not surprise us. Who knows? It may have surprised the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr Kerrio), who was taken to task back in January of this year by none other than the Premier (Mr Peterson) when the minister indicated that, in his view, it would be a political decision; that the government could overturn whatever the auto insurance board decided in its wisdom that the rates in this province should be for automobile insurance. He very quickly received instructions to apologize for saying that.

The minister said: "That was a mistake. It was my impression that we would have that opportunity. I said I made a mistake and I corrected the record." I am not sure who called the Minister of Natural Resources when he made that comment, but we all know the minister to be a straight-talking kind of guy who says it like it is, in his view, and tends to be very honest and open in his approach to these things, whether we agree or disagree with his views, on a variety of issues. Here is another indication where that gentleman said it like it is, said it like it was going to be, just a few short months after those comments and after his forced retraction. I have to believe that it was, indeed, a forced retraction in the sense that someone from the Premier's Office contacted the gentleman and said, "Look, that is not the picture we are trying to sell to the public. Get out there and admit you made a mistake."

Obviously he did not make a mistake. We have seen other ministers of this government make serious mistakes and not receive direction from the Premier's Office to indicate or apologize that they made a mistake. In fact, they have been supported in their intransigence and unwillingness to admit that they made a very serious mistake. Here we have a situation where the minister was honest, completely open, did not

make a mistake and was compelled to say that he made a mistake.

When we take a look at what has happened in respect to automobile insurance in the past couple of years under the direction of the Liberal government, there was an article in a speech, I guess, delivered by one Ted Belton, who is a vice-chairman of Pafco Insurance Co. The headline on this article is certainly dead on: "Ready, Fire, Aim." I do not think there is any question that that describes the way the Liberal government has dealt with this issue and has indeed shot itself in the foot but also, in turn, shot the consumers of this province—

**Hon Mr Elston:** Is Ted Belton suing us? He's suing us, right?

1610

**Mr Runciman:** The minister should know that. I have no information in that regard. The minister is apparently concerned about a lawsuit.

I want to put a few of the quotes from this article on the record, because I think they are most appropriate in talking about the actions of the government.

"Initially, of course, they created the expectation that premiums would go down. They discarded 50 years of statistical data and violated the principle stating that the premium shall be commensurate with the risk. It was evident at the time, and it is even more evident now, that the government had aimed its guns in the wrong direction and for the wrong reasons. However, the revolution has been triggered and its impact is starting to be felt by consumers and insurers alike."

Certainly we have seen that in recent months with respect to the inability of many drivers in the Metropolitan Toronto area to find adequate car insurance. It is a situation where we are seeing increasing numbers being forced to look to the Facility Association. I know the minister will say that number is still rather modest, but if we take a look at the percentage increase in Facility over a one-year period, it is indeed significant.

Again, these are the kinds of things that should not be of any surprise to this minister or his government colleagues, certainly not the member for York Mills or any other member who served on the standing committee on administration of justice during the Bill 2 hearing process. It was clearly indicated to us.

This is another thing I have never been able to determine. On the last day of the Bill 2 hearings, we were presented with a critique of the system in Massachusetts, which at that time I believe was the only jurisdiction that had adopted a system

comparable to what this government has adopted.

The story in Massachusetts was nothing less than a horror story, where the state witnessed insurance company after insurance company pulling out of the state, not operating in that jurisdiction. As of 1987, in any event, approximately 60 per cent of the drivers were in Facility in the state of Massachusetts. It was clearly indicated to the minister and his predecessor that that is the kind of path this government had embarked upon.

Now we see the Premier down visiting in Boston, Massachusetts, a couple of weeks ago with his small-l liberal friend Governor Dukakis, patting each other on the back. Mr Dukakis returned the favour by coming up here and saying wonderful things about the Premier a week or two ago.

I guess some of the things we have heard about Mr Dukakis recently are making it much more evident to the public at large just what kind of impact his small-l liberal policies have had on the economy of Massachusetts and on the economic wellbeing of that state. I saw a poll recently where Governor Dukakis is the most unpopular governor in the United States.

That is quite a fall for a gentleman who recently ran for the presidency of the United States, but it indicates that the kinds of initiatives he has undertaken in that state have certainly not, over time, proved to be beneficial. Of course, we have the Premier patting him on the back about the kinds of initiatives he has undertaken.

We have suggested that some of the comparable initiatives—auto insurance obviously is one. We are not going to a significant extent reap the whirlwind perhaps for a number of years, but indeed we are going to reap the whirlwind of the government's decisions and initiatives, its ad hoc, fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants, panic-driven policymaking in respect to auto insurance. We are going to pay the bill ultimately.

The member for Welland-Thorold, who spoke before me, was saying that this government has looked at virtually every option except public auto insurance. My response to that is give them time. I predicted during the Bill 2 process that regrettably we were looking at a three-step exercise here that ultimately and regrettably was going to lead us into government-run auto insurance. The first step was the establishment of the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board to set rates. The second step was no-fault auto insurance, and I think we are going to hear more about

that as the days go by. The third step is a government-run operation.

This party, this Liberal Party, this government has no clear idea of where it wants to go in respect to auto insurance. It has jumped from one crisis to another. What happened of course was that we had the Premier in September 1987, three days before the election, making one of his off-the-cuff comments which he has become so famous for, saying that he had a specific plan to lower automobile insurance rates. Of course he had no specific plan; he had no backup. Once the election was over this government, ensconced in its very comfortable majority, then decided: "Look, the Premier made a promise. We have to attempt in some way, shape or form at least to appear to fulfil that promise."

They had at that time undertaken a commitment to Justice Coulter Osborne to take a look at the auto insurance system in this province. What happened was that rather than wait for that study, which cost the taxpayers of this province in excess of \$1 million, they forged ahead with this ill-thought-out initiative based, I believe, on the Massachusetts example.

If they had been thoughtful and a little less panic-driven in response to trying to come up with some sort of adequate answer to the Premier's promise, they would have waited for Coulter Osborne to make his report, the Report of Inquiry into Motor Vehicle Accident Compensation. They would have referred that report to the standing committee on administration of justice or another appropriate standing committee of this Legislature, which in turn would have taken the Osborne study, which is a careful study, and then made recommendations to this Legislature and to the government in respect to what should be happening with auto insurance in this province.

I am not for a moment suggesting that that would have been a unanimous report. Obviously we know where the New Democratic Party stands in respect to auto insurance. But I think if we had taken that appropriate action in dealing with the issue, we would not be in the kind of crisis situation that we find ourselves in now.

Mr Osborne, in his well-written report, indicated that Ontario should not be an importer in respect to auto insurance schemes in this province. We should be an exporter. We probably head the finest system in North America. I emphasize the word "head" because for all intents and purposes this government has knee-capped an excellent process which indeed needed some adjustments and some refinement, but it has thrown the baby out with the bath water

and all of us at this stage are very uncertain about where we are going. That is creating a great deal of uncertainty among a whole range of groups in society.

I, along with other members I am sure, get somewhat exhausted talking about this subject, because the government keeps jerking from right to left and coming up with new initiatives and hasty responses. It is difficult for us simply because of a real sense of frustration with the way the government has dealt with this. I suspect that the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr Elston) in the next few weeks is probably going to recommend to this House that we have a pure, no-fault system.

**Hon Mr Elston:** Now that is a little presumptuous on your part.

**Mr Runciman:** Sure it is presumptuous. I have to look at the way the government has acted up to this point and I will agree that it is not very predictable indeed. But I, and I am sure my party, will not be running to support a pure, no-fault system. As the minister will know, a great many groups in society, not just the Advocates' Society, have very real concerns about a no-fault system, a pure no-fault system especially.

**1620**

The fundamental automobile insurance rates group, I think, is an indication of a coalition of very concerned groups, and at some point in my contribution to this debate I would like to put on record the individual groups and organizations participating in the FAIR organization. Certainly, we know that one of those groups has to deal with accident victims and rehabilitation associations.

Another element of this is that we talk about the \$7 million plus that was spent by the board in going through this costly exercise. Although the minister will argue, I am sure, that it was money well spent, that money is another element of this and that is in terms of the money spent by insurance companies with respect to meeting the requirements of the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board.

Some may not want to express much sympathy for those insurance companies, but ultimately it is the consumers of this province who are going to have to pick up that tab. We have heard talk of \$50 million to \$60 million spent by the insurance companies in doing what they had to do to meet the requirements of this board.

Of course, as we know, once the minister had an opportunity to review the submissions in terms of rates, he again pushed the panic button.

We know, for example, that some of the stories filtering out of that were that some of the increases could be in the range of 80 per cent to 90 per cent. A lot of this ties in, as I said earlier, with the government's initiative, supported by the official opposition's efforts to remove age, sex and marital status as rating criteria.

**Mr Pouliot:** Go downtown and look at the highest buildings. They were built by premiums of the average person.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr M. C. Ray):** Order, please.

**Mr Pouliot:** I am being provoked. I am broke and this guy is fleecing my pocket with one more action.

**The Acting Speaker:** Well, it is not your turn to speak.

**Mr Runciman:** We will give you a break.

**Mr Pouliot:** Maybe the member for Leeds-Grenville will give me a break.

**The Acting Speaker:** The member has the floor, and he should be permitted to speak.

**Mr Runciman:** I find that kind of amusing. I have brought this forward before. It is a no-win situation for me to get into a debate with the New Democratic Party, and I realize that.

I want to make one point.

**Mr Pouliot:** You wouldn't recognize honesty if you were facing it.

**Mr Runciman:** Well, we will let that slip by, an unfortunate comment which I am sure was not meant.

In any event, I wanted to talk. Certainly the members in the NDP will disagree with me, but when we had concerns expressed by senior citizens in this province about the significant increases that they were going to experience as a result of this removal of the ability to classify risk on age, sex and marital status—in reality, based on what is happening out in the highways and streets of this province—we had the official opposition jumping up in this House and being very irate about it.

Fine and dandy, but they were very strong supporters of these changes which had that kind of impact on seniors and young women drivers in this province. That was clearly spelled out to all of us who participated in the Bill 2 hearings process. I had some difficulty with the NDP's reaction to that input from seniors and young women drivers in this province.

We did not support those changes and, of course, an argument can and will be made with respect to discrimination. But we took the other

side of that argument, that indeed removing the ability of insurance companies to classify risk based on what is happening on the highways and streets of this province was reverse discrimination. In effect, what takes place is that they are discriminating against the statistically proven good drivers in society in favour of the statistically proven bad drivers in society.

We had extreme difficulty with that. It is a matter of record that over the years people in our party—Frank Drea, Bob Elgie and others who were Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations—had indicated in principle their support for this kind of change, but when it got down to practical terms and they looked at the real impact it was going to have on good drivers in society, they always drew back from that particular proposal and did not move ahead with it, I think wisely. Obviously we will have some disagreement on that.

My only point with respect to the New Democratic Party is that it cannot have it both ways on this issue, although I am sure its members will give it a good shot.

**Hon Mr Elston:** Are you supporting the bill, Bob?

**Mr Runciman:** Time will tell. The minister asked me an interesting question: Are we supporting the bill? I guess my initial reaction to anything this government does with respect to auto insurance is that we should not support it.

During the Bill 2 hearings process again, although we could have made a number of amendments, which we were certain would have been defeated in any event, we made a decision not to in any way, shape or form be perceived as participating in that exercise in terms of trying to improve on what we felt was a very bad piece of legislation, a very ill thought out piece of legislation that would have a very negative impact in the long term on the private sector with respect to auto insurance in this province and certainly in terms of the options available to consumers in this province with respect to availability of auto insurance.

We are starting to see those things occur now. The minister may not be prepared to stand up and indicate that. Indeed, they may not be significant in terms of total numbers. I am talking about the flow into Facility. One thing—and I do not want to forget this—another element which perhaps has not been talked about, but I am sure the minister is aware of it, another aspect of this is the re-underwriting that is occurring.

I have had a number of people in this province call me and say: "Look, I only had one accident

two years ago. I was paying \$600 a year and now I'm finding myself put into a different classification and I'm having to pay \$2,000—or \$2,200 or whatever figure it might be—"for auto insurance."

**Hon Mr Elston:** Is that a driver who has had an accident?

**Mr Runciman:** I guess the minister is getting anxious again. Yes, had an accident. We know that, in the past, many insurance companies have forgiven one accident under certain circumstances. I gather even two can be forgiven or overlooked. But in this event, given the current set of circumstances companies have to operate in in this province, they are taking a look at many of those policies, reassessing them, re-underwriting them and, in effect, putting them into classifications that result in much higher premiums for those consumers in this province.

This is indeed a very complicated issue. I have gained some understanding of it over the past three years, being involved in the standing committee on administration of justice. Obviously it is not simply for partisan reasons that I have difficulty with what the government is doing. It is because I really believe they have gone down the wrong path and do not know how to extricate themselves from it. There has never been any kind of long-term plan with respect to how they would deal with this and there does not exist one today.

The government is soon going to be bringing forward soon some product reform measures, suggestions which—again, the government is simply crossing its fingers and toes in hopes that down the road this is going to in some way mollify consumers in the province and perhaps restrain somewhat the rate increases that are, of necessity, going to occur, if for no other reason than the increased cost of living, and things like the payroll tax the government is applying to the private sector in this province and a whole range of other taxing issues.

**Hon Mr Elston:** Okay, we will tax your contributions.

**Mr Runciman:** Well, we can get into all kinds of things here. I do not feel at all restricted by the minister's concerns about my contributions.

The other element of this—and we will have lots of opportunity to discuss this issue in the future, so I do not want to prolong it—is the chairman of the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board, Mr Kruger. I have talked briefly about the question of the independence of the chairman and the board itself and what has happened with respect to this.

## 1630

Mr Kruger's independence was in question really some time ago. If we take a look back to his rather unfortunate attempt to contact the minister of the day, the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon), he sent what was supposed to be a confidential letter to him warning that the industry demands for rate increases were gaining momentum and could stir up controversy at the board's hearings into rates which were to begin in August of that year. That was the so-called independent watchdog sending that kind of a political missive to the Treasurer, the former Minister of Financial Institutions.

We saw Mr Kruger's response to the minister's overturning of the board's rate-making system. I think he indicated that he was somewhat troubled by it but that he was not about to resign at this point, but that if indeed something comparable to that occurred in the future he might have to resign.

It says something about the gentleman in respect to what his role is and how he saw his role when he assumed those responsibilities. We have accused him in some very uncomplimentary language—I will not use that kind of language today—of being in the pockets of the government. Indeed, he has confirmed that not only by his early contacts with the Treasurer but certainly by his rather muted response to the humiliation he suffered at the hands of this minister and this government. He accepted that muted response and said, "If it happens again, if they kick me while I'm down once more, I might crawl out of here."

I tell the members that the gentleman and his board certainly do not have much credibility. If the minister wants to reinvigorate this process he might want to consider, or one of his successors who we might see in the next few months might want to consider a total revamping of that board in terms of personnel; certainly a new chairman. Mr Kruger can move on to perhaps flusher fields. I am sure something will be found for him.

If there ever was a sense of integrity about the thing, we certainly need someone there who can reinstitute that. I think the minister has to bring someone new in there, someone who is going to restore whatever confidence there was in the board to be objective, to be independent and to do the job it was supposedly designed to do.

I will end my contribution at that point and look forward to the minister's rational response.

**Hon Mr Elston:** My response will be both rational and rationed, and quite brief. I just want to raise the issue for the floor to try to grasp what it was the honourable gentleman said when the

question was raised: Do you support the bill? I think he said he did support it but not definitively. He can clarify that for us in his windup comments.

The whole issue, of course, is whether he fully supports his colleague the member for Welland-Thorold and fellow member of opposition here in the advocacy of public insurance. The honourable gentleman at this moment says he does not like what I am doing, which is examining the private delivery system for the benefit of the consumers. He says he does not agree with the road I have taken the province on. That leaves only one thing for me to guess and that is that he thinks, like his colleague the member for Welland-Thorold, that the public system is the cat's miaow, so to speak.

I am quite happy to get into a much fuller debate about some of the issues he did raise, and they are serious issues about the board and other things. I think we can deal with those again in a broader context.

This bill, on its own, attempts to restrict increases in auto insurance to 7.6 per cent in the interim while we do debate the issues that surround product reform.

That being said, the issues are important and I fully take notice of them for that bigger debate, but I want to make sure we can get on with giving the consumers protection now and that is what I think we should turn our minds to in the debate.

**Mr Pouliot:** The member for Leeds-Grenville was somewhat unkind when he directed remarks in the course of his presentation this afternoon to the member of the New Democratic Party. He perhaps had a right, under a state of siege, to feel a little nervous when it becomes so blatant, and this is the kind of intent that would have been best directed at the minister responsible for interim measures.

When we are talking about Bill 10, we have to keep in mind that it was not too long ago, in fact, for a mere seven days past, that the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board came into effect, and the rug was pulled from under it, because we have Bill 10, which says: "No more hype. No more scaring the population to death when it comes to automobile insurance. No severe dislocation. What we will do now, recognizing the extent of our mistake and the injustice, is go to 7.6 per cent."

The Premier had said, and I believe the Premier—the Premier would not, would he, Mr Speaker, before the election, when it was time to go to the population of Ontario to get their votes, lure the population in saying, "I have a plan that

will reduce automobile insurance"? The minister responsible says, "I have a plan that will create a board." The minister responsible for automobile insurance says, "I have Bill 10." What is the minister going to say? He tells us it is in the interim, almost in lieu of. He has become the apologist. No one knows where the minister will be on the long-term basis.

Does the minister have a hidden agenda? I do not know. I try to follow step by step. We have the answer before the writs are issued: a difference of \$300, \$400 or \$500 per driver. All one has to do is look at the example set forth. In British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, even when there was a change of government, there was no intention—

Interjections.

**Hon Mr Elston:** And now we have a change of speakers.

**Mr Pouliot:** I do not listen to them.

**Hon Mr Elston:** Time's up.

**Mr Pouliot:** Through you, Mr Speaker, there was no intention to take away the plan that benefited people in those three provinces.

**The Acting Speaker:** Are there other comments or questions? The member for York Mills.

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** I have to say there was one thing the member for Leeds-Grenville said that I did agree with, and that is that we are dealing with a very, very complex matter. There is no doubt about that. The discussion that has taken place today in the assembly, in the chamber, reminds me of the discussion that took place in the standing committee on administration of justice, which the member for Leeds-Grenville was at and the member for Welland-Thorold was not at, but the rhetoric is the same.

It was clear from the start that the official opposition was saying: "Don't confuse me with the facts. Don't tell me about the \$58 million in buried losses hidden during an election year under the Manitoba Autopac system, about a minister forced to resign because he instructed the auditors to bury the loss. Don't confuse me with the facts. Public auto insurance is the way to go."

Similarly, we heard a continuing and consistent defence from the other opposition party of the "free enterprise" system.

What we were faced to deal with is a problem that began in 1985 and indeed was festering for many years before that and was left unattended by the previous government. Regulatory reform is a difficult and slow process. It is intensive work; it is hard work. We took that bull by the

horns. We decided we would reform the process. We have commenced doing that and we continue to do that.

I laud the minister for the work he continues with in the interests of consumers, not in the interests of some mythical public automobile insurance corporation nor in the interests of a symbolic system of free enterprise, which really does not exist in the automobile insurance industry any more anyway. I encourage all members of the Legislature to support the minister in his continuing hard work.

**Mr Velshi:** I thought I heard the member for Leeds-Grenville mention that males under 25 are the biggest offenders and that he would advocate that they should be punished for that purpose. Perhaps I misunderstood the member. Perhaps he can give us an unequivocal yes or no on whether he agrees that there should be discrimination against males under 25.

1640

**Mr Kormos:** I am concerned about some of the comments both by the member for Leeds-Grenville and on the part of those who responded to him. Lyall Hanson, Minister of Labour and Consumer Services of British Columbia, had this to say about British Columbia's auto insurance system in January 1987: "I went into this ministry with concerns that ICBC was a bureaucratic situation that was charging more than other jurisdictions and that we would have great advantage in returning to private enterprise. From what I have seen and what I have been shown, I believe that we in BC are getting a good deal from ICBC as it stands."

In March 1986, Brian Stanhope, vice-president of the Insurance Bureau of Canada, said this about Insurance Corp of British Columbia, the public, driver-owned nonprofit auto insurance system: "I'd like to be able to say something bad about them, but I can't think of anything."

It remains that a lot of mythology has been generated about these systems in the western provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. It remains that nobody has demonstrated any evidence of the allegations that have been made. The fact is that those systems work, they work well and we should be looking at them here in Ontario.

**Mr Runciman:** I will try to deal with most of the questions that were brought forward. The member for York Mills indicated that during the Bill 2 hearings we were consistent defenders of free enterprise, and that is true. I do not make any apologies for that. We know that this current

government certainly does not actively support free enterprise. We saw after the recent budget the response of John Bulloch, the president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, where he indicated that this was probably the most interventionist government he had had to deal with in his 20 years.

He indicated that business and small people in free enterprise in this province would not have faced the kind of intervention, they would not have faced the kinds of problems they have faced, even if they had been looking at a socialist government. We certainly do support free enterprise, unlike this current government.

One of the members was talking about young male drivers. I want to indicate to him that we do not support reverse discrimination, which is what this government has attempted to do by discriminating against good drivers in favour of bad drivers.

**Ms Collins:** That's a copout. Answer the question. Are you in favour of discrimination?

**Mr Runciman:** I would suggest to that member and the other members who are interjecting that if they talk to senior citizens in their ridings, a few months ago when seniors were appealing to them about the increases they were going to suffer as a result of the government's initiatives—They are the safest drivers in society facing 50 and 60 per cent increases because of their initiative. That is the reality of it.

The minister talks about whether we support the freeze. I want to say that we called for a freeze months ago. Looking at product reform—

**The Acting Speaker:** Thank you. The member's time has expired.

**Mr Farnan:** I think the first thing we have to examine is the purpose of Bill 10. The purpose of Bill 10 is contained in the preamble. I would like to read it into the record.

"Whereas, pending the completion of the review of alternative insurance products, it is desirable that legislation be enacted to control premiums...."

Those two words in the preamble, "control premiums," I think require some close examination. To control premiums would be an admission on the part of the government that rates are indeed out of control and that something needs to be done. It also has an implication that Bill 10 will, in fact, bring order and control to the situation of auto insurance in Ontario.

Let me deal with both of these aspects; first, the admission that the auto insurance rates are out of control. Mr Speaker, I would submit to you that this is a self-evident fact. New Democrats

have been stressing for innumerable years in Ontario the reality that auto insurance is out of control. There is not a driver in this province who has experienced the escalating rise in premiums who would dispute the fact that auto insurance premiums are out of control. What we must establish, however, before we go any further, is the responsibility of this Liberal government for the continuing escalation of auto insurance premiums.

With the passage of this bill, auto insurance premiums will have increased by a minimum of 82 per cent in the past six and a half years. This Liberal government will have been the government during four years of these price escalations. The preamble to Bill 10 is quite accurate. It is desirable that legislation be enacted to control premiums, but let us remember that the escalation of premiums and the fact that they have been out of control over the last four years rests very clearly with this Liberal government.

It is important to distinguish between what the government is saying in Bill 10 and what it said during the last provincial election. In a very desperate move to undermine the policies of the New Democratic Party for a driver-owned, nonprofit public auto insurance program, a program that was gaining significant support during the last provincial election, and in a very basic, political, crass manner, the Premier in the city of Cambridge three days before the election said publicly, "I have a very specific plan to lower auto insurance rates."

Compare that statement with section 1 of Bill 10. Section 1 of the bill talks about capping rates as of 17 April 1989 to increases of 7.6 per cent. The average driver makes a comparison. On one hand the Premier is saying, "I have a very specific plan that will reduce your insurance." Two years later we have a bill coming forward which says, "We will cap the increase at 7.6 per cent."

Bill 10 does not tell the whole story, because the drivers out there know that this is not the first time they have had an increase in auto insurance since the Premier made that promise. Indeed, there were two increases of 4.5 per cent during the intervening period. With the 7.6 per cent, which will be the minimum increase, it adds up to a total of 16.6 per cent since the Premier made his promise.

1650

The people of Ontario, the same people who listened to the Premier during the election and unquestionably put some faith in his word, said, "Here is the leader of the Liberal Party promising

us that if he is elected, if he receives a mandate from the people of Ontario, he has a very specific plan that will reduce the cost of premiums for the driving public," and they believed him. But now we know that since the time the Premier made that statement, we have had increases of 16.6 per cent, minimum. How many workers, I would ask my colleagues in the House, have received increases of 16.6 per cent since the last provincial election? Certainly, it represents a figure far ahead of the rate of inflation.

We have constantly to place these growing costs against the Premier's word. I think it is important that the people of Ontario be able to trust the word of a Premier. I may be old-fashioned in some ways, but I think integrity and honesty are very fundamental to the process of government. When the leader of a political party goes out and says, "I have a very specific plan to reduce costs for auto insurance drivers," but then is elected and proceeds to allow costs to continue to escalate, then the people of Ontario have to look at that man and say: "Did he tell me the truth? Did he mislead me? Has the reality of what has transpired since we gave this man and his party a mandate to govern—have they lived up to their promise?"

The facts speak for themselves. The Premier said the rates would go down with his very specific plan. The reality, and this bill, Bill 10, says the rates will go up and the people of Ontario know the Premier, the Liberal Party and this Liberal government have broken faith with the electorate. They have broken faith with the people of Ontario.

What has happened in the period between the election of September 1987 and today? I have read a great deal on this particular issue, but nowhere have I found a better summary of what transpired in that time than I did in an editorial in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record and I would like to read into the record what this editorial has to say.

The editorial is entitled "Auto Insurance Becomes a Fiasco." Is that not a stark contrast to a Premier who said, "I have a very specific plan"? "Auto Insurance Has Become a Fiasco," and indeed it has. Let me read into the record how the editorial of the Kitchener-Waterloo Record justifies that claim:

"The provincial government has only itself to blame for the embarrassing way in which it has handled the sensitive subject of auto insurance rates. By capping rate increases at 7.6 per cent, shelving the new classification system and moving towards some type of no-fault system,

the government expressed its lack of confidence in the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board.

"This lack of confidence is ironic because the board was established by the Liberal government itself. The government also approved the new classification plan the board was administering and had endorsed the range of general increases the board had proposed after long discussions with the insurance companies.

"Now everything that has been done is simply history. Financial Institutions Minister Murray Elston announced that the government was dropping the course it was on. Elston said the government was acting to prevent what he called 'unacceptable rate increases demanded by the insurance industry.'

"The minister's comments would have had more credibility if the industry could get whatever it demands, but it can't. The insurance board has the power to say no. Presumably, the minister feared the negative repercussions of the high rate increases that were in the final stages of being prepared. In short, the government feared its own policy and it had reason to be fearful.

"Before the last election Premier David Peterson said that his government had a very specific plan to reduce auto premiums. If the government had stayed on that course, it would have had to explain what had happened to the plan, or even whether it ever existed in any substantial form.

"If consumers felt bewildered before, they have even more reason to feel that way today. They may know what their premiums will be for a few months, but they know almost nothing about what the rates will look like one or two years from now.

"The auto insurance companies also have the right to feel bewildered. They worked with the insurance board in good faith. They were on the verge of changing the rate structure to conform to the government's policy. They are not likely to be compensated for the time and money they have wasted. Even if most drivers in Ontario are happy with what happens in the future, nothing can change the conclusion that what has happened up till now has been a fiasco."

I think this editorial is a ringing condemnation of the Liberal government between September 1987 and today, as it brings forward Bill 10. It is a ringing condemnation. I have said before, and I will say it again, the Liberal government has no plan. It never had a plan and there is no plan for the future. They are governing on this issue by the seat of their pants. They are scrambling and desperately trying to find something, anything

that will take the political heat off the government on auto insurance premiums.

## 1700

I want to address the second point, the implication that Bill 10 will bring order and control. First, a little background: When the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board was introduced, I sat through those committee hearings and I listened to government members as they attempted to rationalize the justification for this board. Part of the rationalization was that in the past there had been a certain amount of secrecy with regard to the escalation of insurance premiums. Therefore, with this board there would be some openness. Statistics would have to be brought forward and examined. It was described as "a window on the industry."

At the time, I pointed out that it was unfortunate this board was a window on the industry in which the key players would be the government and the insurance companies, and that consumers would not be represented on the board. I was told by the member for St Andrew-St Patrick (Mr Kanter): "But all the members of the board are consumers. Even if an individual is a president of an insurance company, he is a consumer. He drives a car. He pays premiums."

How naïve this Liberal government thinks the people of Ontario are, that it can come out with this kind of nonsense. New Democrats pointed out that unless there was significant consumer representation on the board, it could not be fair to the drivers of Ontario. Of course, what we said would happen did happen. The auto insurance companies, with their presence on the board, hand in hand with the government, produced a system in which auto insurance premiums were not only continuing to escalate, but were escalating in a very significant fashion.

Again, the Liberal government looked at the situation and said, "We've got a problem." I know backbenchers recognized this, because they were getting the heat in their constituencies. People were coming to their offices and complaining, and indeed there was a problem.

How does the Liberal government go about solving this? They go about it in their usual fashion. It is ad hockery. It is grab this or grab that. "Give them something. It doesn't matter if it's the real solution, but let's do something to pretend we are addressing the problem."

Well, 4.5 per cent, 7.6 per cent; it is growing and the problem is not being solved. What we have now in Bill 10 is basically a complete retreat

on the part of this government from any kind of openness in the insurance industry.

I want to stress this point because if members will turn to section 8 of this bill, they will see that now, despite the fact we are talking about a 7.6 per cent cap—really, we are talking about a 16.6 per cent cap after we have added in the other two increases this government brought in—despite that, there is a “notwithstanding” clause here, that the bill can be thrown aside and the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations that allow for increases over and above 7.6 per cent.

Is this not fantastic? The people of Ontario have to see this for what it is worth. The Liberal government says, “We have a plan to reduce auto insurance premiums,” and then it raises them. Then it says, “We have a plan to cap the rates, but despite our plan to cap the rates, the Lieutenant Governor in Council at any time can increase those rates.”

Who will increase the rates? The people of Ontario know who will increase the rates. The cabinet will draw up the regulations through which the act will be implemented. It will be completely arbitrary. It will be behind closed doors. There will be no input from the consuming public of this province in terms of drivers as to whether there will be an increase over and above the 7.6 per cent.

It is sad. It is very sad for a government that has gone out of its way to promote an image of openness and accessibility. Members remember when the Premier was working his way through Ontario with his sleeves rolled up and his tie down. He was reaching into the crowds and it was: “Elect good old Dave. I’ll be available. I’ll be running an administration that is open.”

That was two years ago, and that was another promise, an administration that was going to be open. What have we got in Bill 10? An absolute denial and contradiction of any form of responsibility for the actions the government takes because indeed the cabinet, through the Lieutenant Governor in Council, can pass any increase that it likes over and above seven per cent. It can give a special dispensation to any insurance company. It can give a special dispensation to increase the premiums for any type of insurance. It can give a special dispensation to increase the premiums for any class of drivers.

Will they have to do that in this House, where they will be responsible to the people of Ontario through the official opposition? No. It will be done behind closed doors. It will be completely arbitrary. It will be a bunch of the good old boys

getting together and saying, “This company could do with an extra 7.6 per cent.” So instead of 7.6 per cent for this particular company, it is 10 per cent, 11 per cent, 15 per cent.

What companies will get this kind of privilege? Over the long haul, and more specifically in the recent period, the people of Ontario are beginning to realize that Ontario has taken a step back a couple of hundred years in the approach to government. We are now dealing with a family compact, where those individuals, those organizations and those groups that are the friends and have the ear of the government are a class of special privilege.

1710

It will not be the boys in the cabinet getting together to say: “Do you think 7.6 per cent is too much of an increase for our senior citizens? Maybe we should be putting that down at only two per cent or no increase at all.” They will not be getting together to lower the rates. Will they be getting together to say that the young women drivers of this province should not be getting an increase of 7.6 per cent? No.

They will be getting together when one of the good old boys, one of those companies that has been buying the \$400-a-plate ticket for 10 of its corporate members to attend the standard Liberal functions, when these companies come forward, then the good old boys will get together and say: “Yes, that’s the company that Harry’s the president of. He’s a pretty decent fellow. He’s been with us over the long haul. He always shows up at all the functions. He even attends functions that aren’t in his particular area of the province and, even when he can’t attend, he sends his \$400 along for the minister’s function. He’s a really decent guy.”

The Family Compact is alive and well in Ontario and the governing party is the Liberal government that is presiding over the Family Compact.

The people of Ontario are very wise to what has been happening. As I said, I do not want to paint the government in a totally negative light. However, the reality of the matter is that its actions are actions that have to be recorded and have to be presented to the public of Ontario for what they are. They are actions of deception. They are actions of complete contradiction as to what it said it would do and what it is actually doing, but I want to add that its actions are no different from the administrations it replaced, the Conservative governments of the past.

The escalation of insurance rates and the determination to avoid addressing the issue of a

driver-owned, nonprofit, public auto insurance program has been as vigorous on the part of the Conservatives as it has been on the part of the Liberals.

We have to ask ourselves why the Liberals and the Conservatives are so united in avoiding at all costs this driver-owned, nonprofit, public auto insurance program. Why are they so vigorously opposed when in three western provinces where the plan has been implemented, where the plan works, where the plan has drivers saving on their auto insurance premiums and where the profits of auto insurance are plowed back into the scheme to reduce those rates, why are the Conservatives and the Liberals so united in fighting this plan that works?

As my colleagues have mentioned previously, even where New Democratic Party governments have been replaced by Conservative or Social Credit governments, they have continued to keep these valuable plans because they know it is in the best interests of the driving public.

It is an interesting question. Why would the Liberals and the Conservatives be so united? Could it be that both parties have been the recipients of the generosity of the insurance industry? Could it be that the insurance industry is playing its cards smart? Could it be that we have that old situation of the Conservatives appearing to be on their way out, as they were in 1985, and the smart boys in the insurance industry saying: "Let's get on side. The Liberals look like comers. Let's get on side with the Liberals; let's start pouring the funds in there." If members go back to the actual records, they will find that many of the insurance companies made similar large, generous donations to the Liberal and the Conservative parties.

We have to say to ourselves that they are not doing this just out of some kind of philanthropic interest in the political process. No, they are very practical and pragmatic. They know they are on a good wicket, they know they are making good profits and they do not care whether it is the Liberals or the Conservatives that sustain the continuation of those profits. Let me tell the members of the government back benches not to get too complacent, because they are as easily disposed of by the insurance companies if they feel that the Conservatives will serve their best interests. Members should believe it. The reality of the matter is that right now they are safe because what they are doing is allowing an escalation of profits. Not only are they doing that, they are allowing privilege to exist.

The ordinary working people in Cambridge know what privilege is. They know that privilege is the ear of the government. I know that when the automobile insurance premiums of Ross Adshade in Cambridge come to be negotiated, he is not going to be able to clink a glass with the member for Bruce (Mr Elston) and suggest to him that his automobile insurance increase is too high. It does not take too much imagination to draw up the image of the cocktail party in which the minister and the presidents of some automobile insurance companies will be rubbing shoulders, and one will be crying on the shoulder of the other and reminding the good minister that he has been a faithful and loyal contributor over many years, as has his company. The reality of the matter then is that this minister in cabinet, without any public scrutiny, will be able to grant to that company a dispensation from the capping that is contained in Bill 10.

There is no doubt that New Democrats cannot support this piece of legislation. The reality of the matter is that there is one significant difference between the Liberals, the Conservatives and the New Democrats. The difference is that when we say we have a plan for automobile insurance, we mean it. Our plan for automobile insurance is the same after an election as it was before the election. We are not scrambling to find something that will take the heat of the voters off us, because we know we have something that has been in place, has worked, has proved its merit and has even been subjected to the scrutiny of governments of a different philosophical persuasion which have come to power with the New Democratic Party plan in place.

#### 1720

Believe me, if they could, they would scrap it. But each of those western governments knows that if it touches those driver-owned, nonprofit, public auto insurance programs, it is political suicide. That is the kind of scrutiny the NDP plan has undergone. There is not a member in this House who would deny the fact that the Premier of British Columbia, Mr Vander Zalm, certainly as ideologically right as one could imagine, would scrap this public plan if he thought he could get away with it. But they have decided to keep these plans.

As my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold has pointed out, in all of the proposals the government says it will consider, the only proposal that it refuses to examine, to accept as a possible alternative, is a driver-owned, nonprofit, public auto insurance program. Why?

Well, the answer is very simple. Because when they make that examination, they will have to come to the conclusion that indeed the New Democratic Party was right all along. They will have to come to the conclusion that the suggestions we have been putting forward over the years, and the suggestions that the government has been scoffing at and ridiculing over the years, are the best possible plan for the drivers of Ontario.

Now, that is the difference. The government can have the best possible plan for the insurance companies. It can even have the best possible plan for the government, a plan which says, "We don't care what happens out there as long as we don't get any political heat." Occasionally, the government can throw the crumbs to its friends in the insurance industry, but for goodness' sake, it should ask itself the right question. We want the best possible plan for the drivers of Ontario, and the best possible plan for the drivers of Ontario is indeed a driver-owned, nonprofit, public auto insurance plan.

Let me sum up what this bill says. This bill says there will be no cap on auto insurance premiums. That is what it says. It is important that the people of Ontario realize this. We are playing with semantics. No matter what the minister says, no matter what form of propaganda emanates from his office, no matter what the spin doctors of the Liberal Party do in the corridors with the media to try and get out a message that this is a plan to cap rates, the reality of the matter is—and I invite the viewers of this program and the people of Ontario to examine section 8 of this act—section 8 says there is a "notwithstanding" clause. No matter that we say it will be capped at 7.6 per cent, the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the cabinet—the Liberal cabinet—can increase rates at any time. Not only can they increase rates; they can do it in secret, behind closed doors, without any accountability.

There will be no parliamentary committee they will have to come forward to and say, "We think this particular company needs some extra dollars to remain viable." There will be no minister standing up in the House, bringing in a bill as to whether the increases are necessary and which can be debated. No, it will be by mandate. It will be by the supreme power invested in the Lieutenant Governor and cabinet working through the Lieutenant Governor. That is the way Ontario will operate and that is a tragedy.

I do not want to sound too dramatic, but I want to say this, the more you move power out of this body, out of this noble chamber, and the more

you move power into the hands of a secret cartel behind closed doors, the more you undermine democracy. This bill, I suggest to my colleagues in the House, is a step—it may be a small step, but it is a step—in which the structures of democracy are being eroded in Ontario.

The reason it is an erosion of democracy is precisely for the reasons I have suggested. A small group of Liberal cabinet ministers, well connected to their business friends, will sit in secret and legislate for the province without any accountability to the representatives of the people of Ontario.

I have to go back to Cambridge and I have to tell the people of Cambridge that there is a new system of government in Ontario. I have to do that. It is a sad message I bring to them. I hope that the message gets out across the province and that people will start questioning those Liberal backbenchers, because on so many issues now democracy is being trodden underfoot. On Sunday shopping, the people of Ontario spoke and the government refused to listen. On security in their courts, the people spoke and the government refused to listen.

The government can do it both ways. It has this vast majority of 94 seats. It can say: "We don't have to listen to a small opposition. We don't have to listen to the people of Ontario. We're mighty and powerful now. We're no longer in a minority situation. We can do what we want." Indeed, the government has demonstrated that it will do what it wants. However, the people of Ontario know.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon Mr Elston:** I would like to make some comments.

**Mr Farnan:** Excuse me. I have not finished.

**Hon Mr Elston:** I thought he was finished; he sat down. I have some comments about what he has done with the noble chamber he speaks about.

**The Deputy Speaker:** One member at a time. The member for Cambridge may proceed.

1730

**Mr Farnan:** Democracy is a very fragile and tenuous flower. One of the foundations of democracy is the right of a member to stand in this House, and no matter how unacceptable, no matter how unpalatable it may be for the government, the right of the member to speak on behalf of the people he represents is a fundamental cornerstone of democracy. I am here representing the people of Cambridge.

**Hon Mr Elston:** Yes, that's why you hijacked the chamber.

**Mr Farnan:** As I speak, the member for Bruce, a member of the cabinet of this government, a member responsible for the legislation on which I want to express my views on behalf of my constituents, simply wants to interject with abuse. He does not want to listen to my remarks. Would it be that the minister simply does not—

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: My understanding is that in the Legislature, a member is required to speak to the bill before the Legislature. He is not here to heap abuse on members who do not respond as he alleges. I think it is improper and it should be pointed out to him. He should be requested to speak in a decent, normal and rational fashion.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The member may proceed.

**Mr Farnan:** I will continue to emphasize the point that democracy is a principle that is based upon the foundation that opposition members be given the courtesy—and I remind the honourable minister—of honourable members listening to what they have to say.

On two counts, on Bill 10, I want to emphasize this idea of government by numbers and not government by rationale or by reason. I did give various examples of how the government had acted in a very arbitrary manner, given the fact that the voice of the people had been heard quite clearly in opposition to several bills.

Certainly, as opposition members, when we come here to put forward the views of our constituents, it is in the hope that the government members, despite their huge majority, despite their overwhelming power to drown us out with their shouts and with their various tactics of interruption, will recognize it is the will of the people of Ontario. I can tell members that it is the will of the people of Cambridge that the member who comes here from Cambridge to represent the views of the people of Cambridge should be heard.

The message I bring back to the people of Cambridge is that majority government is once again demonstrating an inability to listen and an inability to address problems in a manner that is conducive to the good functioning of this House.

When this bill comes up for a vote, I am going to vote against it, primarily because it is an affront to democracy and secondly because it is a continuation of the breaking of the promise that was made that interest rates would be reduced, when in fact this bill says they will go up 7.6 per

cent and a small cartel of the government has the power to increase them even further.

**Hon Mr Elston:** I heard what this gentleman has been talking about, about the noble chamber. He accused me of being purchased and bought and paid for by the insurance companies. He said they paid me and that would influence the way I put together my policies.

I demand a retraction of that. I cannot be purchased. I will speak up for the consumers of this province. That is the way I have performed in this chamber, and I have not used this chamber to impugn the motives or assassinate the character of another member and I will not take it from that member.

I listened for over half an hour as he delivered piece after piece of misunderstood interpretation of this particular legislation, and that is his right. But I will not sit here and have him say that I have been bought, because I will not be bought. I will not sacrifice my principles. I will not sacrifice the principles in which I believe. I will bring together a consumers' piece of legislation. I will protect the consumers.

The member can disagree that it does not do enough for his party; that is his privilege. But he cannot accuse me of being purchased, because I will not be bought, and I will not be influenced by the member or people like him who say that I am purchased. I demand a retraction.

**Mr Farnan:** The insurance industry made over \$100,000 in campaign contributions to the Liberal Party in 1987. That is a reality. That is a fact. If the minister wants to dispute the facts, I am prepared to talk to him about the facts.

**The Acting Speaker:** The Minister of Financial Institutions raised a point of order dealing with a matter which was before the House prior to my arrival in the chair. For that reason, I will have to review the record and get back to the House at a later date with respect to that issue and therefore not make a ruling on that at this time.

The member for Cambridge had finished his address, and we are now ready to entertain comments and questions with respect to that.

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** I would just like to mention to members and the people who may be viewing this chamber's proceedings that the member for Cambridge delivered what I consider to be a very offensive—dare I call it a speech?—set of statements.

I think he owes it to the minister and, more important, to this House to retract many of the allegations he made. Not only were his allegations personal to the minister; they were personal

to the members of this Legislature and to the integrity of this Legislature.

He makes personal allegations and he makes factual errors. He says this government has refused to inquire into or investigate the public insurance system. It has been done on two occasions. His party lauded the appointment of Dr David Slater. He delivered his report and he said that public auto insurance is not appropriate for Ontario. The member's party lauded the appointment of Mr Justice Osborne. He investigated and he said that public auto insurance brings no savings.

The member conveniently forgets that. He conveniently forgets to mention that to the people of Cambridge and the people of Ontario. My friend conveniently forgets a lot when he gets up in this chamber and delivers his spurious conspiracy theories that have nothing to do with fact, nothing to do with reality, and more important, nothing to do with the integrity he should bring to this assembly when he considers the allegations he might make.

**Mr Velshi:** We have had an excellent lesson on democracy. I think if democracy has ever been abused, it has been abused by those two parties across there. I thought the democratic right was given to us on 10 September to govern this province, which we have tried to do. They have used their democratic right to thwart the democratic will of this House over and over again.

I do not think those members can tell us much about democracy and what one's democratic rights are supposed to be in this House. I think those types of statements are misleading to the people of Ontario. The only people who may be listening to that member are people from Cambridge, and I think they will continue to do that. That will be fine. But I think for that member to give us a lesson on democracy is just hogwash in this House.

1740

**Mr Farnan:** If the record shows that I imputed to the individual minister a motive that would be unbecoming, then I have no difficulty in withdrawing that statement, absolutely none. On the other hand, I want to make it very clear that the people of Ontario are not naïve enough to think for one minute that there is not a system in place in which this government rewards its friends. If the members of this government are sitting there and trying to tell the people of Ontario that we do not reward our friends, then I believe—

**Mr Campbell:** Elie Martel is another one. How about Elie Martel, your good friend from Sudbury East?

**Mr Farnan:** Now, we have obviously touched on a raw nerve with this government. It would be nice if nobody pointed out the way the system works. Sometimes when you lift up a stone and you do not like what you see underneath it, it causes problems. It is unfortunate if that is the way things are. We are lifting up the stone and what we see in the system is something that requires to be addressed.

The Liberal member shouted across at me as I sat here, "You got contributions from the unions." We have never denied that we got contributions from the unions. Is it embarrassing them when I point out that the Liberal Party has received massive funding from the insurance companies? Somehow or other, it is sufficient for Liberals to make accusations but not for New Democrats.

**The Acting Speaker:** In view of the heated discussion here, let me make reference to the Rules of Debate, standing order 19(d), that a member in debate "shall be called to order by the Speaker if he:

"8. Makes allegations against another member.

"9. Imputes false or unavowed motives to another member.

"10. Charges another member with uttering a deliberate falsehood.

"11. Uses abusive or insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder."

Could we now have the next participant, the member for Simcoe East?

**Mr McLean:** I am pleased to have this opportunity to say a few words on Bill 10, An Act to control Automobile Insurance Rates. After spending more than \$7 million on the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board, the Minister of Financial Institutions announced that this government was cutting the legs out from underneath the board, ignoring its recommendations and putting a 7.6 per cent cap on insurance premiums.

The purpose of Bill 10 is to cap Ontario private passenger automobile insurance premiums, pending the results of studies into alternative forms of car insurance. In effect, the government has decided to toss more than \$7 million to the wind when it opted for the 7.6 per cent cap and deferred the classification plan and rates developed by the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board that were originally scheduled to come into effect just on 1 June past.

This bill will actually rescind orders issued by the board on 1 February, 13 February and 16 March and allow insurers to increase car insurance premiums by 7.6 per cent effective actually on 1 June, I would believe. This was the benchmark rate increase previously announced by the insurance board on 13 February. It should be noted that age, sex, marital status and handicaps are still valid criteria for assessing risk under this bill.

In Bill 10, failure to comply will result in fines of up to \$25,000 for individuals and up to \$100,000 in other cases. Introducing Bill 10, I believe, may show panic on the part of the Minister of Financial Institutions and his government once it was revealed that up to one million people in this province would be receiving insurance rate hikes of more than 30 per cent. Young female drivers, newly licensed drivers and those living in high-density areas of Ontario would have faced rate hikes in the order of 80 per cent to 90 per cent.

I also suspect that with the introduction of Bill 10 we are now on the road to government-run insurance in this province. Bill 10 is just one more example of panic-driven policymaking on the part of this government. First the Premier promised a specific plan to lower automobile insurance rates. Then the government appoints a costly insurance board, which comes up with a proposal that would increase rates substantially. Finally, the minister overrules that same board and recommends a plan that would also increase rates. I believe the consumers and the insurance companies of Ontario are sick and tired of this government's shell games on auto insurance and other important issues facing us today in this province.

I would like to take a few minutes to put the automobile insurance in some form of historical perspective. At the centre of this current controversy with automobile insurance in Ontario is the risk classification system which was to have come into effect on 1 July. I think it should be noted here that my party was the only party to oppose the adoption of this new risk classification system. We opposed it because it would be an extra burden to senior citizens and young female drivers.

This government's policies, like Bill 10, will cost everyone in Ontario a great deal of money. It costs motorists who have to pay higher automobile premiums, it costs the taxpayers who must foot the \$7-million bill to date for the automobile insurance board and it costs insurance companies that spent millions of dollars making the neces-

sary changes to accommodate the new plan before it was deferred by the introduction of Bill 10.

The sudden capping of automobile insurance premium rates is not the first time this government has meddled in the affairs of the supposedly independent Ontario Automobile Insurance Board. On 4 December 1988, the Premier asked the insurance board to extend public hearings into the new year in response to public criticism that the hearings were not in-depth enough.

On 9 February 1989, just days before Ontario's drivers were to learn the premium increases they would be made to pay for the remainder of 1989, the Minister of Financial Institutions instructed the insurance board to study possible no-fault car insurance options and on 15 February the Premier said his government was considering stepping in to help seniors hit by rising insurance rates.

Government meddling in the affairs of the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board indicates to me that this board is not as autonomous as we had been led to believe. Any semblance of independence it may have had completely dissolved with the introduction of Bill 10. The insurance board is turning into a multimillion-dollar political puppet.

The insurance issue is just one more example of this government saying one thing and doing another. It happened with Sunday shopping, it happened with the Ontario health insurance program and it has happened with the provincial share of education spending. At least this government is consistent: it has consistently said one thing about the issue and then turned around and done another. This is a costly and confusing method of governing a province.

I have always maintained, and we are attracted to it, that there should be some form of no-fault insurance available to Ontario's drivers, if they prefer such insurance. They should be allowed to choose between no-fault insurance and traditional liability insurance. There are two types of no-fault insurance that could be offered to the drivers in this province: threshold or choice.

#### 1750

Under the threshold system, the existing system of a single compulsory coverage made up of a combination of defined, no-fault benefits and fault-based recovery would be maintained. However, the current system could be modified to the extent that it restricts the ability of people to recover in the fault system when injuries are less severe. This restriction, referred to as

threshold, would only apply to pain and suffering losses.

The choice system that could be considered would involve giving motorists choices as to the type of compensation that would be available in the event of a personal injury accident. Individual policyholders could choose a no-fault policy which will include the right to receive compensation for pain or suffering or loss of enjoyment of life.

Consumers could also choose a fault-based policy which would offer compensation based on the same principles of negligence law that are currently in place in Ontario. This policy would provide the same coverage to the person who is injured as is now available through third-party liability coverage except that the injured person would always recover from their own insurer instead of from the insurer of the driver who is at fault.

In addition to increasing the consumer's alternatives, a system providing individual choice would allow the no-fault and traditional systems to compete in the marketplace. Open competition between no-fault and traditional insurance may reveal that no-fault is superior or that traditional insurance is superior or that one is better for some but not all motorists.

In any event, the competitive pressure of giving motorists a choice should improve the performance of both systems and consumers would benefit.

The no-fault and the fault-based policies would be mutually exclusive in that people choosing no-fault cannot sue and those choosing fault would not be entitled to any benefits if they are at fault in the accident. This choice should be made at the time the insurance policy is paid for.

Claims for pain and suffering now make up approximately 45 per cent of all bodily injury claims. I believe the elimination of litigation in cases not involving serious injury would reduce insurance costs significantly.

In conclusion, this government is forcing motorists and representatives of the insurance industry to travel an extremely bumpy road when it comes to the insurance issue in Ontario. The panic-driven policy we have seen with the automobile insurance issue is going to force motorists off the road and I fear we could very well see a problem and some of us may even have to start using our bicycles again.

**Mr Reyecraft:** Some of us should.

**Mr Furlong:** Some of us should.

**Mr McLean:** I have a two-wheeler I use periodically just to kind of keep in shape.

Escalating repair bills and ridiculously high judicial awards already threaten the entire industry. Now the truth is out. Co-operators insurance lost \$36 million last year and likely its losses will be up towards \$60 million this year. The predicted loss was based on the assumption that Queen's Park would approve a benchmark premium hike of 7.6 per cent plus another nine per cent, if justified by losses, but Co-operators needed much more, 30 per cent, and higher premiums in large urban areas like Toronto.

Essentially, Toronto is a weeping sore for all auto insurance companies. Accident payouts are so costly that Co-operators no longer takes on new policyholders in the Metro area. At least Co-operators can be choosy; other companies have just bailed out. The mighty T. Eaton Co auto insurance division quit along with Advocate General Insurance and others. To put it bluntly, they were not in business to subsidize urban areas with low-cost insurance premiums.

Most of the problem lies at the door of Queen's Park. Many of the new members elected over the past three years or so did not understand what was happening, largely because the insurance business is extremely complex. But serious reflection drew the conclusion that Ontario will not be well served by an insurance utility run like the post office.

Had the Premier listened to the rhetoric of the official opposition, he would be in serious trouble today. The auto insurers lost more than \$400 million last year and the figures could nudge \$1 billion for 1989. Unfortunately, the recent solution here interferes with premium rates, a case of treating the symptoms rather than the disease itself. The answer lies, we believe, in no-fault insurance, an approach we urged more than two years ago.

It has been pointed out before in regard to Bill 10, and it still concerns me—it has to do with the first paragraph, "It is desirable that legislation be enacted to control premiums." It really does concern me when the government is involved in controlling premiums.

What happens in other jurisdictions and other commodity groups if the government passes legislation to control premiums? I think it could lead to public auto insurance at a greater cost in the end. I do believe that private enterprise has supplied us with good service over the years. I am aware of the increased costs. When we start paying out \$1.40 in repairs and taking in \$1, it just does not add up.

I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to speak on Bill 10.

**The Acting Speaker:** Are there any questions or comments?

**Mr Villeneuve:** I want to congratulate my colleague the member for Simcoe East for his presentation. He represents a riding very similar to mine, where large numbers of senior citizens reside.

When the initial bill first came out, involving very much higher premiums for our senior citizens, those who live out in rural Ontario, those who have to have a car if they are going to remain in their own homes—certainly by removing the discrimination it became discrimination in reverse.

For young ladies under 25 years of age, it is a similar situation. I think this government has to look very closely at tampering with the system that has served all of Ontario quite well.

Yes, some adjustments are required.

I am quite sure the minister responsible was not bought in any way, shape or form, but he had a rather sudden change in attitude. He was busy telling the Legislature last January: "I am quite prepared to leave the hearing and the determination of the automobile rates with the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board. They have proven in the past, with respect to their previous three hearings, they do a very thorough and reasonable job at analysing the material that is available to them and, in fact, make recommendations that there is a deficiency of same upon which to make good, valid recommendations."

The minister was not bought, but it came down from headquarters. I believe the headquarters happen to be somewhere in a corner office on the second floor. I think it came to the minister as a surprise that this would be the course of action. The minister was not bought, in my opinion. It was simply a matter of, "Are you interested in remaining in cabinet or is there a possibility that you may be looking for another portfolio?" That is what the corner office decreed.

I see this as the kind of administration we have here at Queen's Park. Very few people have the power to call the shots and indeed make the music come forth. I think we all have to listen very closely. That is democracy as we know it at Queen's Park today.

**Mr McLean:** I am kind of surprised some of the government members did not get up and say what a great speech that was. I am sure I did not put them all to sleep and I know the minister will think what I had to say was well worth while. I

know we will see some of the remarks in a new no-fault bill that will be coming through very shortly.

I just think that some of the comments my colleague has made and some of the changes in the policy that have been made over the years, which I had indicated in my remarks, are certainly worth repeating. I am glad he saw fit to do that. It is a great day we are having, to be available to deal with Bill 10. I am sure that tomorrow we will also deal with it and perhaps after that we will be able to get it out to committee.

Interjections.

**Mr McLean:** It is not going to committee?

**Hon Mr Elston:** Yes, we are.

**Mr McLean:** Out to committee and back in next week so we can get it final.

I just have a few seconds left. I want to make one remark very clearly, that in about 1982 it was that government that started the bells ringing in the first place. We learned something from that and I wish he had never started it in the first place and it would probably never happen again. But it is amazing how members who are here for a while learn what happens, how things continue to take place, the procedures and some of the remarks that are made here in the Legislature. I am pleased the members had the opportunity to spend some time in the Speaker's chair, if only for experience purposes.

On motion by Mr McLean, the debate was adjourned.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Hon Mr Conway:** The previous speaker anticipated the business for tomorrow. The House leaders have agreed that we will continue the second reading debate on Bill 10 in the hope we can conclude that, and as the honourable member indicated, have the matter referred out to committee. So, members will know that we will be returning tomorrow after routine proceedings to take up the adjourned second reading debate on Bill 10.

Just for members' memory, I am also reminded by my friends the member for Norfolk (Mr Miller) and the member for York Centre (Mr Sorbara) that we are not sitting tomorrow morning, so we will begin tomorrow at 1:30 pm.

The House adjourned at 1803.

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS\*

(130 seats)

Second Session, 34th Parliament

**Lieutenant Governor: Hon Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC**

- 
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)  
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)  
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)  
 Beer, Charles (York North L)  
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)  
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)  
**Bradley, Hon James J.**, Minister of the Environment (St Catharines L)  
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)  
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)  
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)  
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)  
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)  
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)  
**Caplan, Hon Elinor**, Minister of Health (Orillia L)  
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)  
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)  
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)  
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)  
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)  
**Conway, Hon Sean G.**, Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)  
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)  
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)  
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)  
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)  
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)  
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)  
**Curling, Hon Alvin**, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)  
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)  
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St Catharines-Brock L)  
**Eakins, Hon John F.**, Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)  
**Edighoffer, Hon Hugh A.**, Speaker (Perth L)  
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)  
**Elston, Hon Murray J.**, Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Financial Institutions (Bruce L)  
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)  
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)  
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)  
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)  
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)  
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)  
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)  
**Fontaine, Hon René**, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)  
**Fulton, Hon Ed**, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)  
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)  
**Grandmaitre, Hon Bernard C.**, Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)  
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)  
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)  
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)  
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)  
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)  
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)  
**Hošek, Hon Chaviva**, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)  
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)  
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)  
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)  
 Kanter, Ron (St Andrew-St Patrick L)  
**Kerrio, Hon Vincent G.**, Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)  
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)  
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)  
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)  
**Kwinter, Hon Monte**, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)  
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)  
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)  
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)  
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)  
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)  
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)  
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)  
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)  
**Mancini, Hon Remo**, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)  
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)  
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)  
 Matrondola, Gino (Willowdale L)  
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)  
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)  
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)  
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)  
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)  
**McLeod, Hon Lyn**, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)  
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)

Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)  
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)  
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste Marie NDP)  
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)  
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)  
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)  
**Nixon, Hon Robert F.**, Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Brant-Haldimand L)  
**Oddie Munro, Hon Lily**, Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)  
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)  
**O'Neil, Hon Hugh P.**, Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)  
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)  
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)  
**Patten, Hon Richard**, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)  
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)  
**Peterson, Hon David R.**, Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)  
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)  
**Phillips, Hon Gerry**, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)  
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)  
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)  
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)  
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)  
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)  
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)  
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)  
**Ramsay, Hon David**, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)  
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-Walkerville L)  
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)  
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

**Riddell, Hon Jack**, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)  
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)  
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)  
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)  
**Scott, Hon Ian G.**, Attorney General (St George-St David L)  
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)  
**Smith, Hon E. Joan**, Solicitor General (London South L)  
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)  
**Sorbara, Hon Gregory S.**, Minister of Labour (York Centre L)  
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)  
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)  
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)  
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)  
**Sweeney, Hon John**, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)  
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)  
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)  
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)  
**Ward, Hon Christopher C.**, Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)  
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)  
**Wilson, Hon Mavis**, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)  
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)  
**Wong, Hon Robert C.**, Minister of Energy (Fort York L)  
**Wrye, Hon William**, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

\*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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No. 22

# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario

**Second Session, 34th Parliament**

**Thursday, 8 June 1989**

**Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer**  
**Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers**

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, 8 June 1989

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**Mr Morin-Strom:** Today I would like to reaffirm my support for the French Language Services Act, which passed this Legislature in 1986. I am greatly disturbed by the falsehoods and misconceptions being repeated by many in comments about this act. I trust that by again stating the facts most people will realize that this issue is one of basic fairness for Ontario's 500,000 French-speaking Canadians.

While strongly disagreeing with those opposing the French Language Services Act, yesterday I delivered a petition signed by more than 1,000 residents of my community to the Legislature. The preamble to that petition was highly inaccurate about the content and intent of this act. As an elected member, it was my duty to deliver the petition; but, as I stated in the House, I cannot support that petition in any way. I sincerely hope that the people who signed the petition will look at the true facts. If they do, they will realize that the French Language Services Act is reasonable and proper legislation that addresses real needs of more than 500,000 residents in Ontario.

My support of this act and that of my party is firmly based on our strong beliefs in human rights and language rights for all parts of Canada.

### ACCESS TO CHILDREN IN CUSTODY

**Mr Cousens:** Issues that arise in family law are often sensitive and emotional matters. The question of access and custody of children as a result of marital breakdown is no exception.

Currently, the standing committee on social development is studying Bill 124, An Act to amend the Children's Law Reform Act. This bill was supposed to provide a new framework for resolving access disputes between divorced parents, yet government members of this committee have refused to address a number of the areas that are crucial for an effective and compassionate system.

I have put forward, on behalf of my party, several amendments dealing with the need for

mediation and supervised access centres. Mediation provides an excellent way in which parties to a dispute can sit down together or separately with a trained person to resolve their differences. Supervised access centres would effectively allay fears that a custodial parent may have during a child's visit with the other parent.

However, this government fails to see the merit of these proposals even after repeated calls by groups and individuals to adopt these provisions. The Advisory Committee on Mediation in Family Law of the Attorney General (Mr Scott) has called for an expansion of mediation services. Its report, which was two years in the making, will not be incorporated into this bill where it should be.

This bill is a sham and an insult to the thousands of people who could benefit from these proposals. The government is undermining the methods of resolving access disputes in a way that I fear is not in the best interests of all parties concerned—

**The Speaker:** The member's time has expired.

**Mr Cousens:** —especially those of the children.

### NATIONAL ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK

**Miss Roberts:** I am very pleased to rise today and inform the members that the spirit of National Access Awareness Week is alive and growing in Elgin. Only five months ago a new community group, known as the St Thomas Access and Awareness Association, was formed in my riding to promote the interests of the disabled community in St Thomas and Elgin.

During access awareness week, many events have been scheduled. Different community groups have been included and through the schools in Elgin a campaign has been launched to heighten the awareness of the obstacles faced by the disabled each day. Posters designed by local students, displays throughout Elgin Mall, representatives from local service agencies and the members of the St Thomas Access and Awareness Association talking to interested citizens are some of the highlights planned during this week.

I look forward to joining Marlene Eveland, president of the association, this weekend in St

Thomas to help celebrate its success. Congratulations to the St Thomas Access and Awareness Association for a job well done. I look forward to many more positive projects in the years to come.

#### WELLAND ROSE FESTIVAL

**Mr Kormos:** The people of Welland-Thorold are very proud of the annual Rose Festival which takes place in the city of Welland. Now in its 28th year, the Rose Festival began with only three days of activities. Because of the continued support from the community and the hard work of hundreds of volunteers, the Rose Festival now consists of over 50 events and carries on for over two weeks.

It is a celebration of our area's unique multicultural quality. Its activities and events cater to all in the community from the youngest to the oldest. The festival focuses on, among other things, the unique criss-crossing of man-made and natural waterways which grace the city. The Rose Festival also uses the many fine parks located throughout Welland.

I know some of the members of this House have participated in those events. Indeed, the Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms Oddie Munro) was our parade marshal four years ago.

The Welland Rose Festival is indeed a mega-event which started this year on 2 June and will be highlighted with the Rose Festival parade on Sunday, 18 June at 1 pm. This great parade, second to none, along with other activities, attracts visitors from across the province, from Quebec and from the northern United States.

Rose Festival visitors are not only able to enjoy the spectacular events of the Rose Festival itself; they also have the opportunity to view the many murals now located throughout Welland, a unique and exciting project of Welland's Festival of Arts.

Claire Gerenscer, the chairman of Rose Festival, and I invite everyone to join with us this weekend and next for these exciting events and the great Rose Festival parade in Welland on 18 June.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**Mrs Marland:** As national Environment Week, this week gives us an opportunity to reflect on the critical environmental problems facing Ontario. The Liberals came into office with grand promises of cleaning up the environment. They have had four years and where are we now?

Today in Ontario we are experiencing crisis situations in waste management, in water quality and in air quality. We have hundreds of municipalities running out of landfill space that will soon have nowhere to put their garbage. We have air pollution levels in the greater Toronto area that are choking our citizens. We still have industry after industry spewing toxic contaminants into our waterways.

Municipalities looking for new landfills will have a long wait for environmental assessment approvals. The minister's Environmental Assessment Act review is also behind schedule. If they want to solve their garbage problems by building incinerators, municipalities will have no air emission guidelines to follow. The minister's changes to regulation 308 will not be effective for five years, 10 years in some cases.

The Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley) would not disclose essential information on the toxic fuel fiasco, and that could have had disastrous effects on the health and safety of the citizens of Ontario. The people of Ontario deserve to see results. If this minister cannot provide results, the Premier (Mr Peterson) should appoint someone else.

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Mr D. R. Cooke:** It is with great pride that I rise during national Environment Week and congratulate the city of Kitchener on being the recipient of the first annual Environmental Achievement Award in the category of environmental leadership by a municipality, awarded by Environment Canada.

Kitchener received its award in recognition of the fact that it was the first city in the world to establish a blue box program. I would like to pay tribute to the father of the blue box, Nyle Ludolph, for his invaluable assistance in establishing the program and making it work. That breakthrough program was started in 1983 and now has a 75 per cent to 80 per cent participation rate and has resulted in a 10 per cent reduction in landfill waste.

The program was instituted at a time when there was no assistance from the province. Other cities tarried until provincial financial support was forthcoming. Now this program has been copied in cities across Canada and around the world. In Ontario alone there are over a million blue boxes. I well remember accompanying then opposition leader and now Premier (Mr Peterson), the present member for Essex-Kent (Mr

McGuigan), who was the opposition Environment critic, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney) and the member for Waterloo North (Mr Epp) in 1984 on a tour through the Total Recycling project.

The Environmental Achievement Award recognizes the effort and commitment of the city of Kitchener to protect and restore our environment, and proves how we as individuals and groups can make a significant difference in our environment.

**The Speaker:** The member's time has expired.

### FIREFIGHTING

**Mr Hampton:** Earlier this year, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr Kerrio) announced that the Ministry of Natural Resources would be cutting fire crews back from five persons to three persons. The minister said that with all the new firefighting technology, three-person crews would be more efficient. The new efficient three-person crews have been in place now for a few months, and so the real reason for the fire crew cutback is becoming apparent. There is no magical new technology out there. The cutback from five-person crews to three-person crews is just that: a financial cutback that has created a lot of problems.

The dedicated people who make up the firefighting crews state quite bluntly that the three-person crew creates an unsafe working situation. With only three persons in a crew, they do not have enough manpower to man the pumps, to put out hose and to keep a safe eye on the fire at the same time.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. That completes the allotted time for members' statements.

### VISITORS

**The Speaker:** Just before I call the next order of business, I ask all members of the assembly to recognize two visitors in the Speaker's Gallery: the ambassador of Portugal to Canada, His Excellency Dr Juao Uva DeMatos Proenca, and the consul general of Portugal in Toronto, Dr Carlos Manuel Durant Pais.

**Hon Mr Conway:** Mr Speaker, I think it would be very appropriate if I sought unanimous consent so that the House could make some remarks on this Portuguese National Day.

Agreed to.

### PORTUGUESE NATIONAL DAY

**Hon Mr Wong:** This is Portuguese Week, and I have the great honour of paying homage to the

Portuguese people and to the special contribution they have made to Ontario. This is a week to celebrate the values that are important to Portuguese Canadians: family, home, religion and a unique culture that has added colour and vibrancy to our multicultural society.

This celebration began as a tribute to Portugal's greatest national poet, Luiz de Camões, who chronicled Portugal's history and who, through his verse and prose, has helped keep the rich tradition and culture of Portugal alive for the Portuguese people.

In the immortal words of Camões, a man whose life and works symbolize the spirit of the Portuguese people: "In Africa, they already hold coastal bases. In Asia, none can dispute their sovereignty. In the new world, they are plowing the fields. Were there more lands still to discover, they would be there too."

We are pleased that many of the people of Portugal, a country renowned for its adventurers and explorers, chose to come here to Ontario to make their homes. Over the years, Portuguese Week and National Day celebrations have grown, just as the Portuguese-Canadian community has grown here in Ontario.

The majority of Portuguese-Canadians have immigrated here to Ontario since 1953 and today, Portuguese-Canadians make contributions in every area of life in Ontario. This community of hard-working and diligent people has played an important role in building our country and our province.

Just as important is the community's efforts to pass their cultural traditions on to their children. This has created a generation of people who are proud to be Canadian and proud to be Portuguese. I am proud to represent a large number of Portuguese-Canadians in my riding of Fort York and, on behalf of the people of Ontario, I want to thank the Portuguese people for sharing their unique culture with all Ontarians.

Today, during Portuguese Week, I want to say:

[Remarks in Portuguese]

Viva Portugal. Viva Ontario. Viva Canada.

**Mr Farnan:** On behalf of the New Democratic Party, I welcome this opportunity to extend our best wishes on the occasion of the national day of Portugal.

The character of the Portuguese people is reflected in the special and unique manner in which they have chosen to celebrate their National Day. To symbolize the spirit and soul of their nation, they chose not a warrior, a battle or a political event, but an individual who is widely

recognized as the greatest figure of Portuguese literature.

This celebrated figure is Luiz Vaz de Camões, a 15th century poet and writer, who is widely recognized as the pre-eminent poet of Portugal. Hence the national day of Portugal is also referred to as Camões Day.

One cannot reflect on the achievements of the Portuguese people without recognizing the extraordinary feats recorded by Portuguese explorers during the Age of Discovery. Indeed, Luiz Vaz de Camões wrote an epic poem, *Os Lusíadas*, in which he says, "The Portuguese gave new worlds to the world."

Ontario is fortunate to number among its citizens some 300,000 Portuguese-Canadians. Cambridge, like so many other communities across our province and indeed across Canada, is proud of our multicultural makeup and grateful for the presence and contribution to our community life of the many Canadians of Portuguese origin.

As the member for Cambridge, I represent some 14,000 Portuguese-Canadians and I can inform this assembly that they, like Portuguese-Canadians across the province, have made a very significant contribution to the economic prosperity and the social and cultural fabric of our community.

As a former schoolteacher, I have taught many children of Portuguese-Canadian families. I have also had the honour to be part of the writing team that compiled a booklet commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Portuguese community in Cambridge. This booklet chronicled the arrival in Cambridge of the first Portuguese emigrants from the Azores and how, through their hard work, they became a key element of our local workforce in the shoe, textile and construction industries.

It also celebrates the achievements of the Portuguese-Canadian community, through their strong family commitment, to strive to create opportunities for advancement for their children, through our educational system, into the worlds of business, the professions and academia.

It reflects their strong religious beliefs and their pride in preserving their unique heritage of language, music, dance and celebration and encouraging the continuance of centuries of customs and traditions by passing them along from generation to generation.

**1350**

In Cambridge today, Canadians of Portuguese origin have made their mark in every walk of life. This group of industrious and enterprising

citizens will continue to play a key role in our future growth and development. As in Cambridge, the story of achievement is reflected in communities across Ontario and across Canada.

If there is one fact I would want to stress in recognizing the national day of Portugal, it is the warmth of the Portuguese and Portuguese-Canadian peoples. I am not just referring to the wonderful and colourful religious festivals, processions and fêtes. I am talking about their everyday kindness, generosity and friendliness. They are our valued co-workers, our neighbours and, especially, our friends.

On this occasion, I wish to recognize the presence in the assembly of Dr Juao Uva DeMatos Proenca, the ambassador, and Dr Carlos Pais, the consul general. On behalf of the New Democratic Party of Ontario, may I say:

[Remarks in Portuguese]

**Mrs Marland:** I would like to rise to join with my colleagues in the Legislature today on behalf of the Progressive Conservative caucus in commemorating Portuguese National Day. For all members of the Portuguese communities around Ontario, this is indeed a very special day, a day of celebration and a day of remembrance.

Portuguese National Day is unique. While many nations choose to celebrate a decisive battle or revolution, the Portuguese have chosen to pay tribute to the life and works of a great poet, Luiz de Camões. It was on 10 June 1580 that Camões passed away. Still today, his poetry touches and inspires all the people of the world.

The love of literature, long a characteristic of the Portuguese people, has been mirrored throughout the last 400 years by a deep love of country. This sense of nationalism allowed the Portuguese to break the chains of Spanish domination in 1640 and, 300 years later, ushered in a new era of freedom and democracy for the people of Portugal.

Today, the pride and self-confidence of the Portuguese people have allowed for the development of a peace-loving and vital society prepared to meet the challenges of the future. The nation's involvement in both the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Community is a strong indicator of Portugal's commitment to building a stronger society. In this sense, Portugal and Canada share much in common.

At this time, I would like to take the opportunity to point out that well over 100,000 Ontarians are of Portuguese descent. Several large Portuguese communities have been established in cities such as Toronto, Mississauga, Hamilton, Brampton and Cambridge. In my own

riding of Mississauga South, there is a vital Portuguese community which has contributed immensely to Ontario society.

Our ties with Portugal do not end there, however. In the past three years, over 220,000 Canadian tourists have ventured to Portugal. Some have gone to visit family members. Others have gone to enjoy the warmth of endless beaches. Still others just wish to explore this beautiful nation.

To recognize the national day in this province, the Alliance of Portuguese Clubs has been organizing Portuguese Week, a week-long cultural festival. The final day of this commemorative week is called the Day of the Communities. As each Portuguese community joins together to celebrate, I would like to commend the organizers of Portuguese Week for the splendid job they have done. I extend the best wishes of the Progressive Conservative caucus to the participants in the Portuguese National Day festivities and all those Portuguese people whom we are blessed to have as residents and citizens of Ontario.

**Mr Cousens:** May I have permission from the House for a memorial statement for the late Jim Jessiman?

Agreed to.

#### JAMES JESSIMAN

**Mr Cousens:** On behalf of the Progressive Conservative caucus, I would like to pay tribute to Jim Jessiman of Thunder Bay, who died at his home yesterday at the age of 76.

He was a member of the Legislative Assembly representing Fort William from 1967 to 1975 and served his riding faithfully and well. He leaves an impressive legacy of community service and monuments to his dedication, which include the historical restoration of Old Fort William and Big Thunder National Ski Training Centre. He was chairman of the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission from 1972 to 1975. Jim served in the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1939 to 1945 and after the war established a successful auto dealership in Fort William.

Before his entry into provincial politics, he was active at the municipal level. He was a member of the Fort William parks and recreation department from 1954 to 1964. He was chairman for eight of those years. He was a city alderman between 1965 and 1967. Jim is remembered for his initiative and foresight in setting aside land for the Chapples recreation area, as well as implementing a tree-planting policy for the city's boulevards. Among Jim's many interests was a

passion for fishing and he returned from a fishing trip only a week ago.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife, Margaret, his son, Bill, of Thunder Bay, and his daughter, Valerie Hollyman of Toronto.

**Mr Hampton:** On behalf of my party, I would like to echo the statements made by the member for Markham (Mr Cousens).

I did not know Jim Jessiman personally; rather, as is usual in the kind of work that we do, I knew him through his work both in politics and in the community. I remember when I was quite young and in high school reading about him as a member of the Legislature from Fort William. He was a member of the Legislature who not only represented his own constituency of Fort William, but I think it is fair to say he was somebody whose voice was heard throughout the northwest.

I also remember that Mr Jessiman was someone who, while he was a member of the Legislature, continued to be very much involved in his home community. Almost every week you could see something in the Thunder Bay papers recording his activities in the community and certainly his devotion to sports and recreation.

I wish to echo the sentiments of the member for Markham. He was someone who served his constituency well and I think served north-western Ontario very well.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I would like to join with the representatives of the other two parties in echoing their sentiments on the news of the passing of Jim Jessiman.

I did know him here as a colleague in the Legislature, although I was in opposition and he was a member supporting the government party and had a variety of special responsibilities. He was always available on a friendly and frank basis to talk politics or any other subject of interest in the day with members on all sides. This is one way of saying, I suppose, that he had friends in all parties. I always feel that is a valuable contribution when policies are discussed or the attitudes expressed by members in all parties in emerging issues come for debate and consultation.

#### 1400

We became good friends. On a number of occasions, in my capacity as Leader of the Opposition in those days and leader of the third party, as I recall, I travelled to Thunder Bay, and we often appeared on the same occasions. His friendship and hospitality is well remembered and still appreciated.

My colleagues and I join all other members in expressing our sorrow to the members of the Jessiman family and the community of Thunder Bay which he served so well.

**The Speaker:** When the official Hansard is printed, I will, of course, make certain that a copy is forwarded to the Jessiman family so that your words of sympathy are received.

On a point of privilege, the member for Windsor-Riverside.

#### STANDING ORDERS

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: If I might have the time to make a couple of comments on a point of order about the process that has been used for major changes that are being proposed by the government for the rules in this Legislature.

I would like to point out, and I say this in a very sad way, that this morning at the House leaders' meeting—which was held at a special time at 9:30 this morning so that members of our caucus could attend the funeral of my leader's brother—we were given major rule changes, obviously in response to the government's feeling that the opposition parties have too much freedom in the Legislature even though our number is 37 or 38 members.

At 9:30 this morning we were given these rule changes. At 10 o'clock the House leaders' meeting adjourned. The press indicated to us that they already had copies of this. Then the government House leader went and held his little scrum at exactly the time that our members, and myself as House leader for my party and the House leader for the Progressive Conservative Party, attended the funeral of my leader's brother.

Some would call that sleazy. I call it really a sad commentary on this government.

**The Speaker:** I might just say that I listened carefully and if the government House leader has a few brief remarks, I allowed one member to speak.

**Hon Mr Conway:** I listened very carefully to what my friend the House leader for the official opposition has indicated. I want to assure him and colleagues in the House that I have, over a number of weeks, indicated our concern about certain antics in this chamber.

We have seen, over the past number of weeks, obstruction. We have seen a pattern of obstruction about which this government and the people of Ontario are increasingly concerned. I indicated throughout the last number of days that our

patience was running out, that I was very anxious to effect some rule changes.

I want to say that, having indicated that I was very concerned about what was happening and our desire to see some rules changed, I acted, I believe, responsibly. I regret that this week's timetable turned out to be as it was. That was clearly outside of my control, given what we saw earlier in this week with the ringing of bells and such like. I felt it was my responsibility to place on the Orders and Notices paper at an early opportunity this government's intention.

I was guided entirely by my desire to see some changes to our rules and in no way was I animated by an outside calendar. I deeply regret that any honourable member, particularly anyone who has worked with me over the years, would feel that somehow I took advantage of the very, very unfortunate circumstances involving the family of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr B. Rae). That was not ever my intention.

I have indicated to the House leaders that I will be calling this government notice of motion at some point in the future with the intention of having this motion passed before the summer recess. I believe the people of Ontario expect that this obstruction end, that we have a very vigorous opposition. That is what we want to get on with.

**The Speaker:** The member for Nipissing, briefly please.

**Mr Harris:** I think the House leader for the New Democratic Party raised a very legitimate point of privilege on timing and the way this was done. I would like to raise what I believe is a very legitimate point of order when the point of privilege is finished.

**The Speaker:** I have listened very carefully to the point made. As I understand, there is a resolution placed on the order paper by the government House leader and it is the usual procedure of this House that at an appropriate time that matter will be dealt with within this House; that is the appropriate time to deal with it.

The member for Nipissing on another point.

**Mr Harris:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I believe it is a point of order in the true sense of the word because it does deal with the ordering of the business of the House.

As you know, sir, the traditions of Parliament extend back many hundreds of years. The rules of Parliament have evolved over centuries in the British House and over many decades here in this chamber. The rules of the House are to govern the conduct of all members in the exercising of their responsibilities as representatives of their constituents. The rules are here to protect our

rights as legislators and to protect our privileges as democratically elected representatives of the people.

You, sir, are chosen by all members to uphold these rules and to protect our rights and privileges. Incidentally, you will recall that this government forgot this important fact in the appointment of the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr M. C. Ray) to assist you in upholding the rules of this House. The Liberals decided to appoint the member for Windsor-Walkerville to the position of Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House without any consultation with the other two parties.

I note from the government House leader's motion today that the government still does not wish to ensure that the Speaker will be elected by all members of the House. However, I digress. The point I would like to make is that the rules of this chamber are for the conduct of all members and as such should be developed by all members.

I notice the government has placed a series of proposed changes to the rules of this House in the order paper. We in the two opposition parties have been trying to get the government to move on certain rule changes for over a year. My colleague the member for Carleton (Mr Sterling) has spent dozens of hours in discussions with representatives of the Liberal Party and the NDP to bring about some reform and improvements to the rules of the House.

The government House leader does not seem to understand that by placing this motion on the order paper, he is inviting us to debate it for an unlimited period. We want to work with the government to improve the House, but by thinking that it can use its 94-member majority to ram this motion through, he clearly has shown that he does not understand how to work with all members of the House to make this place work.

We have been asking this government to adhere to the standing orders with respect to its responses to order paper questions, with no success. We have been asking this government to give us fair time and consideration to deal with the estimates.

**The Speaker:** Your point of order is?

**Mr Harris:** The Provincial Auditor and the standing committee on public accounts have also expressed concern over the government's handling of the estimates process. We have asked about this in countless House leaders' meetings. We have wanted to change the rules for almost two years.

I am saddened that the government House leader chose to put notice of motion 5 on the

order paper. I think it is inappropriate that the government should even consider using its majority to ram changes through the House.

I would respectfully suggest that the government House leader withdraw government notice of motion 5 and return to some meaningful negotiations which traditionally in this place and this House have dealt with rule changes by negotiation and agreement, not by majority hammering. According to my initial checking, extensive rule changes governing us all have never been brought forward unilaterally.

I would ask you, Mr Speaker, to check all of the history and the precedents of rule changes in this Legislature and report back to this House.

**Hon Mr Conway:** I would like to address my friend's point of order. I want to be very brief and to the point. I want him to know that I checked very carefully the context for such rule changes as I want to make on behalf of the government. I appreciate what my friend has said and what my colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr R. F. Johnston) has suggested through the earlier debate this afternoon. It is certainly true that in almost all cases one seeks consensus to make change.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

1410

**Hon Mr Conway:** I have to say, on behalf of 94 members, that we have seen over the past number of weeks and months a pattern of obstruction that has nothing to do with opposition. It has to do with paralysing the business of this Parliament. This government believes it has a responsibility to ensure that Parliament works, that it is not hijacked, that it is not paralysed.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Conway:** Mr Speaker, I find it strange that people who talk about opposition none the less engage in frivolous, sometimes outrageous challenges of your rulings, ring the bells on first reading, walk away and refuse to come to this place and engage in the public business, and read petitions endlessly so that we cannot get on with the business of this House, a House that it costs \$130,000 a day to operate.

We are here to do important business. We expect a vigorous opposition. These rule changes will provide the opposition with a range of new opportunities, but we will not tolerate endless bell-ringing—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. Would the member take his seat?

Interjections.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** On a point of order.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. Really. I would remind all members that the Speaker has the right to recess the House for disorder. I ask that you would all really consider what you are doing. I have tried to be fair, to listen to a representative from each party on the point of order—

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** You haven't listened—

**The Speaker:** Order. I will accept some brief comments from the member for Windsor-Riverside.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** Very briefly, because I think the memory of the government House leader is failing today, we went through a process between 1985 and 1987. Remember the time? No walls, no barriers, a new age in Ontario? We negotiated. We had the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly look at the rules of this place and make recommendations.

After the 1987 provincial election, when these guys got their majority and took on the arrogant attitude they are displaying here today, we sat down with the government House leader—the Conservative Party did; my party did—and we said, “We’ll accept the entire package from the Legislative Assembly committee,” which included reforms for all the rules. The government House leader’s representative, the chief government whip, negotiated that with my whip, the member for Oshawa (Mr Breagh), our representative, and the member for Carleton. We had a package.

They took it to their caucus and their caucus rejected that package. They said as a majority at that time: “To hell with the opposition. We’ll get at the rules by imposing.”

Mr Speaker, I can tell you that I think you as Speaker should be looking specifically at one aspect of these rule changes because it is going to deal very clearly with the confidence this place will have in the chief officer of this assembly, who is the Speaker, and how the Speaker is chosen.

If this place is going to work, these rules are not going to pass. If the government is insistent on passing these rules, then I can tell the government House leader now that we are not going to put up with this kind of arrogance. There will be a fight in this Legislature and we will not let this go through. This kind of arrogance and antidemocratic behaviour from this government

is unacceptable to us and the people of this province.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. A representative from each—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. I have listened very carefully to representatives from each party on the point of order the member for Nipissing raised. I listened very carefully, and as I understand it, it was called a point of order. It appeared to me to be a point of view, but then he did finish by asking the Speaker to look at the precedents.

I believe we are getting into a debate now on a matter that is before the House in Orders and Notices and I am sure that will be dealt with in due course. I will certainly look at the precedents and discuss it with the member if he so desires.

**Mr Breagh:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Regarding standing order 18(a), I would like to draw to your attention the privileges of the House. It is true the government House leader placed a notice of motion on the order paper today. It is also true that the content and the government House leader’s comments thereon were widely quoted in the Toronto Star this morning.

I would contend under standing order 18(a) that the privileges of the House have been abused by virtue of the fact that the contents of the notice of motion were printed in a daily Toronto newspaper before they were printed on the order paper today, and that the contents of the government’s position on the matter were made public in a public newspaper before the members of this House had an opportunity even to see the notice of motion. I believe that to be contrary to standing order 18(a) and I would appreciate it if you would take that matter under consideration and give us a ruling on it.

**The Speaker:** I have listened carefully to the member for Oshawa and I will certainly do just what the member has requested.

Just before I call the next order of business—

**Mr Mackenzie:** Why don’t you call it?

VISITOR

**The Speaker:** Order. Just before I call the next order of business, I would ask all members of the assembly to recognize in the Speaker’s gallery the Minister of Justice from the People’s Republic of Angola, Dr Fernando Franca Dias Van-Dunem. Please join me in welcoming him.

## STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

### TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND THE DISABLED

**Hon Mr Fulton:** I would like to announce improvements today in the Ministry of Transportation's program for disabled persons. Ontario will broaden eligibility guidelines for persons using specialized public transit.

The new guidelines will now include persons who are unable to walk 175 metres, the average distance people usually walk to get to a bus stop. Service is now limited to people who are unable to board conventional transit.

In co-operation with the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr Mancini) and the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs Wilson), the new guideline was developed after close consultation with affected consumer groups, municipalities, transit operators and other branches of the government.

The new criteria will see a gradual increase in the number of trips. After five years, there will be approximately 600,000 additional trips.

To subsidize increased operating costs from the new guidelines, Ontario will add \$20 million to its special public transit fund. An additional \$30 million will be allocated over the same period, assisting municipalities with expansion and improvement of existing systems. These funds will also allow for services in areas that do not already have a system in place.

1420

These increases provide further detail to the government's 1987 announcement of \$84.1 million to improve transportation services for senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

Ontario now has special public transit services in over 60 municipalities. This funding will allow us to meet the legitimate demand for transit services in underserved or rural municipalities.

Municipalities across Ontario will be encouraged to apply the new guidelines as soon as possible, with a goal of full implementation by January 1991. The ministry, of course, will continually review the guidelines to ensure they reflect and meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

I would like to provide the House with a brief update of Ontario's accessible taxi demonstration program. Under the program, incentive grants assist taxi operators with incorporating wheelchair-accessible taxis into their fleets. Currently, these vehicles are operating in 10 municipalities, including limousine service at

Pearson International Airport. Four municipalities have taxis on order and we are negotiating with a further 21 municipalities across the province.

The recent budget of the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) included a new allocation of \$5.2 million to further improve transportation services for the elderly and for disabled persons. These new funds will assist us in meeting the goals set forward two years ago. Accessible taxis, improved accessibility to conventional transit, fare reciprocity for seniors among municipalities and service to small and rural communities are among those goals.

Personal mobility is an essential need. We are working towards making this an attainable goal for all Ontarians, wherever they may live.

## RESPONSES

### TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND THE DISABLED

**Mr Morin-Strom:** I would like to congratulate the minister on the initiative he has taken with respect to the new guidelines governing persons who will be eligible for using specialized public transit.

I think it is about time this government acted on this particular issue. It has been a concern of many persons with mobility disabilities that they have been restricted from using buses and transit services in various communities because of the tight definitions being put on restrictions having to do with ability to get on the vehicles as opposed to the ability of persons being able to walk or get to bus stops, and this has been a serious concern in communities, particularly in the north.

I hope the minister's guidelines will include special consideration, particularly in the winter months, for the difficulties many elderly and others with disabilities have in getting to bus stops because of snowy conditions on our roads and streets, which make it very difficult, particularly at those times of the year, to get to those stops.

The minister also makes reference to updating the government's initiatives with respect to the accessible taxi demonstration program. This is a program that has been successful in those communities that have it and certainly is a program that should be expanded right across the province.

The minister states the vehicles are now operating in 10 municipalities. However, he should be aware that one municipality, the community of Sault Ste Marie, has recently lost

this service because of the financial failure of the company, which did receive assistance in obtaining three of these vehicles.

As a result, this service has been withdrawn from the community and I hope the minister will be able to work together with the local community in ensuring the service continues. There has been serious concern that the ministry did not receive any assurances that continued operation of the vehicles funded by the ministry would in fact be guaranteed in that community.

It would appear that the vehicles in this case may well be auctioned off and sold to another operator, perhaps in the city of Toronto. I hope the minister will intervene in this particular case to ensure that this service does come in and continues to assist the disabled in Sault Ste Marie.

**Ms Bryden:** I too congratulate the minister for bringing in these improvements in transportation for the disabled and for seniors. I feel they are long overdue.

The government has been in power almost four years and it has made a great deal about its assistance to these two groups. We still have a long way to go. The \$5.2 million in the budget for further improvement of transportation services for the elderly and for disabled persons is a peanut when you spread it over the whole province. We would like to have some sort of schedule of which groups it will go to, how it will be allocated and over what period. We hope the funds will be available very soon.

I would also like to say that the rules about access to special transportation services must be broadened. I hope the new guidelines will include persons who have other barriers than the ones the minister is mentioning.

Wheel-Trans in the city of Toronto is inhibiting a good many seniors and disabled people from using it because of the scheduling rules, which are very onerous. Apparently, for somebody to get on the schedule, he must have two signatures on an application form, one from a doctor and one from some other kind of care giver in the community, which means probably two trips for the disabled person to get that signature. This seems to me rather unnecessary and very onerous on people. I had an 80-year-old woman who only got the doctor's signature on her first trip and had to make another one to a public health nurse to get her second signature.

These are the things we would like to see the minister addressing further, but I think it is a step in the right direction.

If we are going to treat disabled persons and seniors—

**The Speaker:** The member's time has expired.

**Mr Cureatz:** I would like to respond to the announcement of the Minister of Transportation (Mr Fulton). Of course, it is all applaudable and laudable and we appreciate it very much, but I would like to point out to the minister an interesting aspect about these kinds of announcements. He has not done a thing yet about accessibility at the GO train station out in Whitby.

I remember when the GO rail system opened up, on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, there was the minister with all his entourage coming out on the GO train, bringing along a very lovely baby, a grandchild I think, all dressed in blue, and everyone was so happy that day and all the municipal politicians were there. I was even there and it is not even my riding, but I was very appreciative of the GO train coming out. But do members know what we found out the next day? Through my office in Durham East, through the member for Durham Centre (Mr Furlong), a Liberal member, and through the member for Durham West (Mrs Stoner), we had all kinds of complaints about the inaccessibility of the rail station for handicapped persons.

The minister should pay another visit. You have to be a mountain goat to go through the contortions to get to that train station. You have to be a hardrock miner. Somebody from Sudbury maybe would have better accessibility to that place. I have not yet seen, from the minister or the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr Mancini), any kind of action to try to alleviate the difficulties encountered at the new GO rail station.

I have heard the minister berating my colleague the member for Markham (Mr Cousens) about how those nasty Tories never did any kind of highway construction back in the old days. Well, these are the new days under the Liberal administration and this minister blew it. He has spent millions of dollars on that extension to the GO rail system, which we appreciate. He did not even have enough brains to figure out how the people are going to get to it.

For goodness' sake, let's hear something from his ministry on how it is going to alleviate the difficulties of the handicapped on getting to that GO rail station in Whitby.

**Mr Cousens:** It is just too bad the Minister of Transportation really does not have the kind of problem that many other people are having,

because with his limousine he can streamline his way in and out of places in coming and going. In that way, he probably never gets to understand what it is really like to use public transit.

I would have to say that there are still so many things missing. If you live outside of the greater Toronto area and are coming in from Durham, Peel or York, you come to a border—talk about the Berlin Wall—that separates those from within the greater Toronto area and those from without. Those who live outside greater Toronto have a very difficult time in gaining access to Wheel-Trans; so they get on their mobility bus in Markham, Mississauga or any other place, go the border and are picked up.

1430

The Minister of Transportation should not be blowing his horn with praise and glory for all the things he is doing. He is still falling short of meeting the needs of those people who are looking for this kind of service. Not only do they have trouble getting across the border, they have trouble getting through on the phone line; as the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms Bryden) points out very rightly, the waiting lists are just horrible. Another thing is that there are lots of them who have never even heard about it because they do not even realize these services are being presented. So come on, I say to the minister, get your act together.

**Mrs Marland:** I would have been really excited this afternoon if the Minister of Transportation had stood in this House and made a joint announcement with the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons to decide finally, once and for all, that the disabled transit services in this province would be deemed an essential service for the people of Ontario.

The sad thing that has happened over the last two or three years is that the disabled community in Ontario has been held to ransom because of strikes during the disabled transit negotiations around the province. Since disabled transit services are a matter of life for a lot of disabled people, this being National Access Awareness Week, it would have been significant if this government had shown some compassion and leadership and finally met the request of the disabled community in Ontario and deemed disabled transit services an essential service once and for all.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### STANDING ORDERS

**Mr Breagh:** I have a question for the government House leader concerning his notice

of motion about the standing orders, the rules under which this House conducts its business.

I wonder if he recalls that the first statement by the Premier (Mr Peterson) was as follows: "We will move quickly to bolster the role of members in committees of the Legislature. A legislative committee will be empowered to conduct a review of parliamentary procedures."

Will the government House leader tell us why he is now negating the very first statement made by the Premier on how we would go about changing the standing orders or the rules under which this House operates?

**Hon Mr Conway:** Two things: First of all, I think it is important for us to recognize that we have accepted and have been working with provisional standing orders in this Legislature over the last number of months—actually I think it is now a couple of years—in which the honourable member for Oshawa (Mr Breagh) played a leading role. Certainly I continue to value his advice in this connection.

I want to add as well that what I have indicated by way of government notice of motion 5 in no way precludes other important discussions about other very important changes that I believe we all want to make. I want to be clear on that to my friend from Oshawa.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** Let us read them first and then we'll discuss them.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Conway:** I do not in any way rule out other discussions about other rule changes, because I think we have got to focus on a number of other issues. But I want to be clear that the government, on behalf of the people of Ontario, is increasingly concerned about this pattern of obstruction, particularly bell-ringing, petition-reading and challenges of the Speaker's rulings, which I want to remind my friend from Oshawa were not dealt with in the earlier package.

**Mr Breagh:** I guess the Toronto Star is once again in error, because it quotes the government House leader as saying, "I have no intentions of retreating from this position."

Can he explain to us why he ignored this report, which was prepared by an all-party committee and signed by members from all parties, containing changes to the standing orders, to the way the government's business and the House's business is arranged and carried out? Why did the House leader choose to ignore this report, tabled in the assembly and signed by members from all three parties, which accomplished the proposals that he has and others?

Why did he choose to ignore this report, which was tabled by a subsequent committee in the House, which further refined those changes and brought forward changes to the standing orders that were acceptable to members on all sides? Why has he ignored those two major reports for four years, and all the work that has been done by members on all sides of this House, and this morning brought forward a package which was initiated solely within the cabinet?

I remind the minister before he answers that yesterday afternoon the chairman of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly had no knowledge—

**The Speaker:** Thank you. The question has been well asked.

**Hon Mr Conway:** I want to say to my friend from Oshawa that we did not ignore the reports that he has referred to. In a number of situations—I think specifically of the new provision for opposition days and the new standing committee on estimates—we have drawn very substantially from the reports the honourable member mentions.

I want to say I was correctly quoted when I indicated that we will not retreat from the position about our determination to end these endless bell-rings and the endless reading of petitions. That, members opposite must understand, is our position, but I am quite prepared, in fact quite anxious, to add to this a variety of other issues that I think we must act upon.

**Mr Breagh:** I would just like to make it as clear as I can that I am not asking the government House leader to retreat from anything. I am asking the government House leader and the government to adopt a report which was prepared and adopted by members of all parties—his party, mine and the Conservative Party. The second report deals with other matters that are there.

I am quite prepared to accept all that, but I cannot for the life of me understand why he let all those reports gather dust for now close to five years. He refused to adopt those and he brought forward this package.

Is it the government's intention to move unilaterally to adopt only those matters out of those reports that it wants and to totally ignore matters that are contained in this report that make it acceptable to the opposition parties? Is it the government's purpose to be the first government in the history of this province to unilaterally move to change the way in which this House governs its business, whether the opposition parties have any say in this or not?

**Hon Mr Conway:** They ask why. I will tell them why. Because this is the first opposition in the history of Ontario that denied a Treasurer the right to present a budget; because this is the first opposition that has read petitions for days; because this is the first opposition that has rung bells for days and weeks at a time—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Conway:** —because this is the first opposition that has so consistently and so frivolously challenged Speaker's rulings; because this is the first opposition that has so consistently rung bells on the introduction, on first reading, and because this is the first opposition that seems to think the tyranny of minority is somehow synonymous with an effective opposition. They are wrong, and the government is not going to allow this kind of obstructionism to continue.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. The member for Riverdale (Mr Reville) is waiting patiently.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. What a waste of time.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. I have no choice but to recess for 10 minutes.

The House recessed at 1440.

1450

**The Speaker:** New question, the member for Oshawa.

**Mr Breagh:** I would like to continue with another question to the government House leader concerning his proposed way to have the business of the House ordered.

Can the government House leader finally explain to us why he chose to ignore consensus reports prepared on two different occasions by members of all three parties, which reflect a reasonable way to change the standing orders and, in their place, brought forward changes to the way the business of the House is organized which have been approved, we take it, only by members of the cabinet?

Why did he choose to ignore all the other members of the House and their findings on those matters, and go only with those things which appear to meet the favour of the cabinet?

**Hon Mr Conway:** I repeat, we have not ignored the advice of those reports. In two or three cases we have drawn from the advice. We have accepted the advice of the Provincial Auditor, for example, on the whole estimates

process. We have accepted the advice of the reports that the honourable member makes reference to in connection with opposition days. We have accepted advice about the appeals to the Speaker's rulings.

I repeat, having accepted that advice, we are moving to deal with a number of tactics that are not at all dealt with in the reports. In the report of the ad hoc committee, for example, I do not recall there being much, if any, discussion about the petition-reading or bell-ringing day after day after day.

One of the interesting things is they did not occur in minority parliaments, because in minority, our friends in the opposition must accept some measure of responsibility for what occurs in this place. In this majority Parliament we have seen an absolute unwillingness of the opposition to accept any responsibility for some of these tactics.

**Mr Breugh:** It is clear that the government House leader has chosen to ignore the work of his own members in this regard, and that cannot be set aside. Can he explain—

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** Not so.

**Mr Breugh:** A member of the cabinet says, "Not so."

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** That's exactly right.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Breugh:** I do not mean to intervene with an august member of the cabinet who does not want an opposition member to ask a question, but I would like to put one now.

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** Now you're getting so ridiculous. After all the noise you yo-yos made? Come on.

**Mr Wildman:** "Yo-yo." What a jerk.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Mackenzie:** The Minister should know the meaning of the word.

**The Speaker:** Order, the Minister of Natural Resources.

**Mr Wildman:** You just called us yo-yos; you're a twit.

**Mr Breugh:** At least I've been called a yo-yo by an expert.

**The Speaker:** Order. Really, really. Supplementary?

**Mr Breugh:** Perhaps among the other people whom the government House leader has ignored, we should not forget that the people of Ontario, like the people who are represented in a Parliament anywhere, have always had a tradi-

tional right to have their say during the course of the day's proceedings. That is, traditionally in all Parliaments they have a sacred right to petition that Parliament and the Parliament has a sacred obligation to listen to them.

Can the government House leader explain to the people of Ontario why he is now proposing to limit the amount of time per day to roughly three minutes for each caucus, so that members can present petitions from their constituents?

**Hon Mr Conway:** Very simply, because this opposition has turned the very historic petition-reading into a means of hostage-taking of this Legislature, plain and simple.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** I would like to go back to a comment that the government House leader made a couple of minutes ago, and he is quite correct. The opposition would not have had to use those tactics during minority government, because if he behaved as arrogantly as he does now in minority government he would be out on his ears.

**The Speaker:** Supplementary?

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** I would like to ask the government House leader specifically, why would he make a proposal to this Legislature that the Speaker be appointed by the Premier (Mr Peterson), which is the case now, and not give the right to Parliament to challenge the rulings from the Speaker?

If, in fact, he is serious about making that change of not having the right to challenge the Speaker, why did he not include in his proposal the right to democratically elect the Speaker of this House, who is an officer of all the House, not just the Liberal majority?

**Hon Mr Conway:** My honourable friend makes an interesting suggestion.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Conway:** I have said, and I repeat to my friends opposite, that what they have here is, in the government's view, a minimum of change that we must have. I repeat that I am quite prepared to entertain constructive suggestions from my friends in the opposition as to how we can build upon this base of change, because I want my friends in the opposition to know that change we are going to have. It is going to be constructive change. It is going to be a change that is going to make this Legislature a more effective place. I am quite prepared to have submissions from my friends in the opposition as to how we can build upon this base, but there must be no confusion, we are going to have at

least these changes before we recess this summer.

**Mr Sterling:** My question is also to the government House leader. I think the people who have been involved in changing the standing orders and the procedure would like to see significant reform take place in this Legislature and that is why the standing committee on procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions—now the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly—produced this report wherein we dealt with bells. That is why three members of this Legislature got together and produced this report on 12 April 1988. The New Democratic Party and the Progressive Conservative Party have been waiting for a response from the government of Ontario to adopt in some form the bargain that was struck over a year ago by a committee on which representation was by the government whip at that time.

**The Speaker:** Do you have a question?

**Mr Sterling:** We believe that there can be constructive reform in this House. Why does the government House leader not adopt both sides of the bargain that was struck in these two documents so, in fact, we can have a progressive House and we can have reform and progress in a fair and proper manner?

**Hon Mr Conway:** I simply say to my friend the member for Carleton that, as I remember those two reports, they did not deal in any specific detail with the concern that has been identified by a lot of people in this chamber and outside as to the application of the petition-reading and the bell-ringing. It is with the specific application of those two tactics, namely, the endlessness of their application to the point where this Legislature is paralysed, taken hostage, that we feel in the interest of a better legislative operation, we must now deal. That is the specific intention of a significant part of the government notice of motion 5.

It is quite true that the reports dealt in general with some aspects of petitions and we have, I think, adopted a significant amount of the advice to clean up petitions to make them better. But what I am concerned about is the fact that in recent times opposition parties have felt the need to take petitions and bells and to use those as a means by which this Legislature can be ground to an absolute halt, taken hostage with no business done and \$130,000 a day wasted while the bells ring and nothing happens here in a place that the—

**The Speaker:** Thank you. Order. Supplementary.

1500

**Mr Sterling:** The government House leader, the government itself, controls the agenda of this Legislature. He has the right to order the business every day in this Legislature. He has the right to call what items of business he wants passed by this Legislature. He has the majority on every committee of this Legislature; through them, he can order the business of each and every committee in this Legislature.

We are protected by the standing orders and the minority opposition is protected in some manner through this document. The only real tactic that the opposition has is a matter of delay, and we must decide in some responsible way how to invoke that particular tactic.

Does the House leader not agree that his recommendations and changes to the rules today will in effect emasculate the opposition in the Ontario Legislature?

**Hon Mr Conway:** To my knowledge, no other Parliament in Canada allows, for example, an opposition to ring bells without a vote being taken.

The member is wrong when he says that the government controls the agenda. That is the informing logic of our parliamentary system, but I remind the honourable member for Carleton that when members decide to ring bells, walk out, not return and petition all day so that a Treasurer cannot present a budget, it is quite clear that the government cannot get to orders of the day and present an agenda.

Finally, I want to say to my friend the member for Carleton that I agree, for example, with the editorial position of the Ottawa Citizen yesterday, where it was said, "There is something wrong with the rules if they allow minority parties to impose their viewpoints on the democratically elected government by holding the Legislature hostage."

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** We do it at our electoral risk. That is what the process is about.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** How would you like to read Mr Nixon from 1982 instead?

**Mr Fleet:** It's tyranny of the minority.

**The Speaker:** Please allow the member for Carleton to ask questions.

**Mr Sterling:** In every other Legislature and in the Parliament of Canada, when rules were changed to take away the rights of the opposition to delay, there was a balance and a deal struck with the opposition as to how those rights that were taken away would be counterbalanced by

other methods and other standing orders within the orders of those particular parliamentary institutions.

What the government House leader has done today is wrecked the parliamentary system of Ontario without giving counterbalancing powers to the opposition.

**The Speaker:** Please place your question and do not make accusations.

**Mr Sterling:** Is the House leader so entrenched in his position now that he is willing to have the people of Ontario go to the polls on this issue?

**Mr Reycraft:** Have you talked to Grant Devine?

**Hon Mr Conway:** What a sight the member for Carleton is. He stands there like Cicero in the accusative case. If my memory serves me correctly, Grant Devine is a Tory; he is the Tory Premier of Saskatchewan. He has served notice of his intentions with respect to bell-ringing, and I do not remember much balance in the honourable Premier of Saskatchewan's motion.

I want to say as well to my friends in the New Democratic Party, if the member for Hamilton West (Mr Allen), for example, were in the Parliament of Canada, he would be living with much tougher rules than government notice of motion number 5.

If the New Democrats were in the mother of parliaments in Westminster, they would be living with much tougher rules than in Ottawa or in the Ontario Legislature as these changes were proposed.

And I repeat to the members opposite that this is a minimum, but I am quite prepared to build on this foundation for other constructive change. If they want to participate responsibly in making this a more effective place, I am quite prepared to have their advice.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Cousens:** You didn't even answer the question. How far are you willing to go on it?

**The Speaker:** Order. Order.

**Mrs Grier:** Give us a hand, Maggie.

**Mr Mackenzie:** Give Maggie another hand.

**Mr Reville:** Don't talk, they might send the British navy out after us.

**The Speaker:** We will just let the clock go on.

#### ONTARIO PLACE

**Mr Runciman:** A change of direction: My question is for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation and it concerns the resignation of

Patti Starr as chairman of Ontario Place. Yesterday, the minister was asked by my colleague the member for Simcoe East (Mr McLean) why he did not ask for the resignation of the chairman, given allegations concerning her fund-raising efforts for various Liberal Party members. The minister replied that the chairman had his full support and it was premature to ask for her resignation given that, "We are waiting for the report to come in."

Can the minister tell the House how he feels today? Does he think Ms Starr's resignation was appropriate?

**Hon Mr O'Neil:** I thank the member for Leeds-Grenville for the question. He is indeed right. Ms Starr delivered a resignation letter to me this morning. I will quote from her letter, if I may:

"Ontario Place and its future success must not be diminished. The board and staff need to get on with the operation of the park, free of any negative connotations. I must therefore step aside to ensure that Ontario Place has every chance to succeed, no matter how much I will miss sharing in it.

"I regret any embarrassment I have caused my community, to you and to the government."

**Mr Reville:** Gee, that's what it says in the Toronto Star.

**An hon member:** David can read now.

**Mr Reville:** There was a picture, too.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Runciman:** The resignation of Ms Starr does not answer any of the questions concerning her activities as a Liberal fund-raiser, including selling tickets for the minister's own fund-raising event. More important, it does not answer any questions about her activities as chairman of Ontario Place. For instance, after being appointed chairman, Ms Starr held a number of closed-door meetings about the future of Ontario Place with "some of Metro's biggest names in development, architecture and tourism."

Can the minister tell us if any of his staff were at these meetings that apparently resulted in a blueprint to run Ontario Place? Can he tell us if one Dino Chiesa was present and can he tell us if the companies who have since been awarded the restaurant contracts at Ontario Place were also present at those meetings?

**Hon Mr O'Neil:** Actually those meetings were called by the board of Ontario Place. I am not aware of who attended the particular meetings the member talks about. I can only tell him that I have to look at Ontario Place and what has

taken place there over the last couple of years, especially the last year where the operating deficit has been reduced by more than \$2 million. There are a lot of very exciting things happening there and there have been a lot of improvements that have been made by the board and the staff of that operation. I look at that as seeing some very positive things that have been accomplished.

**Mr Runciman:** The minister is responsible for operations at Ontario Place whether he likes it or not. There are some legitimate questions about the running of Ontario Place under Ms Starr, a well-known Liberal supporter. If the minister does not believe that, all he has to do is read Ontario Place's last annual report, which begins by praising the very government that appointed her.

My question to the minister is this: Will he undertake a public investigation in conjunction with the Provincial Auditor's office to determine the nature of decisions made under Ms Starr's administration including the awarding of restaurant contracts in October 1988 without any public tendering whatsoever?

**Hon Mr O'Neil:** Again, I would say to the member that he has to remember that the board of Ontario Place was not just run by Patti Starr. We have very competent members, including Clare Copeland who has taken over as vice-chairman, very competent people who are on that board who were directing how the board was to be run. I can tell the member that I feel they have done an excellent job. There are a lot of things that show some of the things I just mentioned. As I say, instead of being totally negative on this thing—I realize the approach the member is coming from, but a lot of good things have happened there too.

**Mr Reville:** The Minister of Tourism and Recreation must be the only person in the city who does not know Johnny Arena.

1510

#### CONDUCT OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Mr Reville:** My question is to the Minister of Culture and Communications. According to the *Globe and Mail* of 31 May, the member's mother, Mrs Pleasant Oddie, was paid \$5,000 by Patti Starr on behalf of the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section, for mailing out a survey. The newspaper report says that Mrs Oddie "was retained to mail the survey because of a conversation between her daughter and Mrs Starr, in which Mrs Starr asked her daughter if she knew anyone who might be interested in doing the work."

My question to the minister is similar to the question I asked the Premier (Mr Peterson) yesterday, specifically, whether he had spoken to the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms Oddie Munro) about avoiding the appearance of sweetheart deals being directed to members of their families. Would the minister answer that question? Did the Premier speak to her about that matter?

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** The Premier expects members of cabinet to be cognizant of rules of behaviour. I am not aware of any conflict in this situation.

**Mr Reville:** Perhaps that suggests a supplementary. The member for Hamilton Centre and Minister of Culture and Communications has had an opportunity to reflect on the appropriateness of her referring this kind of business to a member of her family, and I wonder if she would want to share those reflections with us in some more detail.

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** I take any allegation of ill conduct very seriously. I also understand what inappropriate behaviour and wrongdoing is. I am not aware of any conflict of interest in this situation, but I understand there are avenues one could pursue, whether or not such a conflict of interest exists.

#### HIRING OF HOUSING CONSULTANT

**Mr Harris:** I have a question for the Minister of Housing about the hiring of one of her campaign workers as a consultant for her ministry. The minister and the Premier have both indicated that Management Board of Cabinet directives were followed with respect to this \$250,000 award. I have in front of me the Management Board guidelines. The minister in particular persists in blaming the deputy minister when everyone knows it is the minister who must accept responsibility.

Management Board directive—not guideline—directive 2-3, under the competitive acquisition procedures section of the mandatory requirements for hiring consultants, states that "every competitive process using the proposal method"—which the ministry tells us was the method used—"must include at least a written request for proposals...." It also states that the lowest bid must be selected.

I have learned the minister did not issue—

**The Speaker:** Question.

**Mr Harris:** —a written request for proposals. I further understand no proposals were submitted—

**The Speaker:** Question.

**Mr Harris:** —and they did not consider bids, let alone select the lowest. How can the minister stand here today and say the rules were followed?

**Hon Ms Hošek:** My deputy minister has advised me that in this case all appropriate Management Board procedures were followed. There were written selection criteria. Those are available to the member. In fact, they have been made available to the office of the member for Nipissing (Mr Harris). There were written selection criteria. Then there were five people interviewed for this job.

At the end of the interview process, the deputy minister made his decision about who he thought was best qualified and best able to do the work. At that point, a contract was offered to that person and there is a written version of that contract, which is also available to anyone who wishes to see it. I believe that means the proposals and the way in which this was done were according to Management Board guidelines.

My deputy minister assures me that was the case. It was his responsibility to find the appropriate person to do the work for this ministry, to make sure we use our government lands well and that we build housing on them to meet the affordable housing needs of the people of this province.

**Mr Harris:** I suggest to the minister that it is her responsibility to make sure, when dealing with a campaign worker and a contributor to her campaign, a profile Liberal and a friend of hers, that the guidelines are followed and indeed the directives are followed.

We are dealing with directives and I think we should understand that. The same Management Board directive states, "If the estimated...ceiling price is \$25,000 or more, every competitive process using the proposal must include at least a...written evaluation of proposals..."

There was no request for proposals, as there had to be. There was no proposal submitted. There was no way the bids were evaluated. There was no way we know that the lowest bid was taken. So the minister has violated this mandatory directive as well.

According to my reading of the directives that must be followed, at least three, according to the information given to me from her ministry, were not followed. How can the minister stand here today and say the directives were followed when the directives I am quoting from today obviously were not followed?

**Hon Ms Hošek:** Let me clear up a few things here. The person who was hired to do this work

played a minor role in my campaign and did not raise funds for me. I have said that and I am glad to say it again just to make it clear. The other thing is that the member opposite knows very well that all consulting contracts awarded by all ministries in this government are subject to the Provincial Auditor's review. They will be reviewed by the Provincial Auditor in the normal course of business. What I have shown to the member today and explained to him today is the process that was followed. Let me tell him about it again.

There were written selection criteria which I am happy to read into the record if he would like me to read them into the record. Five people were interviewed for this job. The deputy minister looked at those five people, talked with them and made his decision about who was the most appropriate person to do this work.

After that decision was made, a contract was offered to the person who was found most able to do the work. That contract has also been made available to anyone who wishes to see it. If the member would like, I will read some parts of the contract into the record. That information is available. It is public. It is shared and he is welcome to it. I will be happy to repeat this answer again the next time he asks for it.

#### BEER PRICING

**Mr Owen:** I have a question for the Treasurer. Recently, I received some concern and complaints from both management people and also employees in the brewery industry. They are telling us that at present there is an unfair price advantage for United States beer that is coming into this province. They are saying that American beer is making serious inroads into Ontario and that brewery jobs are seriously threatened.

For example, at present domestic beer in this province sells for \$6.60 a six-pack, but US beer is selling for as low as \$4.30 a six-pack. I ask if the Treasurer could today provide us with some information on what appears to be a very unfair price advantage for the US.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I thank the honourable member for notice of the question. I think most members would realize that because of the interprovincial trade restrictions on beer, each province has to have brewery facilities to produce the product for consumption in that province, and therefore the economies of scale are not available. This means American breweries can lay down the product at a much cheaper rate per bottle or per can that can be met by the brewers here.

I think the honourable members, and there has been considerable interest in this matter, are also aware that all imported beer is marked up by the Liquor Control Board of Ontario at 82 per cent and that the markup rate for domestic beer is 23.2 per cent. There is roughly a factor of four, which is designed to restore the balance that is associated with the interprovincial requirements. It is apparent that even at that rate, the very cheap wholesale price of the beer means our local brewers are experiencing difficulty in competing.

1520

**Mr Owen:** I appreciate that explanation by the Treasurer, but I point out to the Treasurer that US beer does not seem to be subject to the same service charges as ours. It does not seem to be subject to the same warehousing costs, deposit fees and government markups as Ontario beer. I am just wondering, for the involvement where the provincial government is related to this particular industry, is there anything that can be of assistance to them in the meantime, before we can do something with the interprovincial problems?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** The honourable member is right. They are not subject to the same markup. They are subject to a markup that is four times larger than that put on domestic beer. Also, the honourable member refers to the fact that the deposit required for domestic beer is not required for imported beer. That was corrected in the budget. There is an additional nickel put on the container for any alcoholic beverage that does not have a return program, as there is for our domestic beer. This, of course, covers all the imported beer, and wine as well.

It is interesting to note also that most of the beer that comes in from the United States comes in cans, which once again is a cheaper way to put up the product. The additional nickel per container reduces the differential between the two products, imported and Canadian, by 30 cents, but still there is that spread that the local brewers feel makes it impossible for them to undertake a reasonable competition.

**Mr Runciman:** What are you going to do about it?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Well, we added 30 cents to the cost of imported beer, if the honourable member would examine the budget, and we would contemplate giving further assistance. I think it should also be noted that while we in this province have floor prices but not ceiling prices

for beer, the brewers in Ontario are not at the floor prices for a six-pack, or even near it.

### STANDING ORDERS

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** I have a question to the government House leader about his unilateral changes to the rules of this Legislature. I would like to ask the government House leader, does he not understand that on the two issues he is so concerned about—the Sunday shopping issue where this party and this opposition used the rules of this Legislature to hold the government accountable because the Liberals said one thing during the election and then deliberately did the opposite after they got their arrogant majority, and on the Smith issue where they would not have accepted the responsibility for her inappropriate interference with the process of justice in this province if we had not used the tactics we did—by removing the ability of the opposition to hold the government accountable, he is making this place less accountable to the public and less democratic?

**Hon Mr Conway:** Yes, I do understand the difference between a vigorous opposition and a mindless obstruction.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** I would like to use a quote from the 8 December 1982 Hansard, when the now government House leader was speaking on Bill 179 and the closure that the then majority Conservative government brought in. I quote:

“Quite frankly, as my colleague and leader has indicated, it is an experience and rule among lawyers that difficult cases make for bad law. I am deeply concerned that, in the course of this difficult passage, we are going to write very bad new rules into our practice here in this assembly.”

Does the government House leader still agree with that principle, and if he does, why is he making those bad rules part of this institution?

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** You said you do not do this stuff in wartime. You wait, is what you said.

**The Speaker:** Order, the member for Scarborough West.

**Hon Mr Conway:** A couple of things to my friend the member for Windsor-Riverside. These so-called bad rules are the rules of just about every other Parliament including Ottawa, including just about every other province in the Dominion of Canada.

I want to say that I am proud of the role I played as a vigorous member of the opposition. I tell members that over 10 years I debated as vigorously, I fought as passionately as I think

anybody here in the last 15 years, but I like to believe that when I was in opposition, I understood the difference between lengthy debates, vigorous demands, on the one hand, and what we have seen here over the last number of weeks and months.

I want members to recall that we have seen an honourable member stand up and call another member a liar just so he could trigger a bell-ringing. We have seen the opposition deny the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) the right to read a budget. We have seen an opposition ring bells for not hours, but for days and weeks. We have seen an opposition debate a committee report through to the end of the day with no ability to adjourn that debate. We have seen a pattern of obstruction that we have never seen before, and after these rules are changed, the taxpayers of Ontario and the Legislature of Ontario will never see again.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** You would have done exactly what we did and you know it. That is the reality. We take our electoral consequences, not the government's consequences, not your punishment. We will let the people punish us if they wish to, not you.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** How many filibusters were you involved in, Sean? Why the double standard, Sean?

**Hon Mr Conway:** There is a difference between a filibuster and walking away from—

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** You walked away from Parliament in 1982. You rang the bells over the weekend. You started it.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. What a waste of time.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** You may think it is a waste of time.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** We do not need your comments.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** Exactly. We do not need an editorial comment, and we can challenge it now, unlike later.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** There are other members who would like to ask questions.

#### DARLINGTON NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

**Mr Cureatz:** I have a question for the Minister of Energy. As the minister is aware—if he is not aware, I will bring it to his attention—the

municipality of the town of Newcastle and Ontario Hydro have come to a disagreement on the amount of moneys that are owing the town of Newcastle for building permits during the construction of the Darlington generating station. The municipality is so concerned that it has passed a unanimous resolution where it is seeking legal advice so that it will put itself in a position to stop the startup of units 1 and 2 at the Darlington generating station.

Does the minister not think he should have intervened long ago as a mediator between Ontario Hydro and the town of Newcastle to resolve this problem, because as he is well aware, there is going to be some difficulty for people in Ontario and there is going to be a lack of electricity. He should have been trying to resolve it to ensure that units 1 and 2 will come on stream so that the needed electricity will be produced. When is he going to intervene to ensure the two units will start up on time?

**Hon Mr Wong:** Let me say that I do agree with the honourable member that the whole issue revolves around the cost of the building permits. However, this is the kind of issue that should be resolved between the town of Newcastle and Ontario Hydro. In that connection, may I assure the honourable member that both the Premier (Mr Peterson) and myself, as Minister of Energy, have communicated to the mayor of Newcastle that this dispute between the town and Ontario Hydro should be a matter that is determined and decided between them.

1530

**Mr Cureatz:** As reported today in the *Globe and Mail*, Ontario is facing the possibility of a great shortage of electricity in the not-too-distant future, and Darlington is going to be one of the major sources to pull up the slack for the next three or four years. I want to ask the minister specifically, does he not think that in the interest of ensuring that we are going to have an adequate supply of electricity he should intervene so that we can resolve the problem?

Further, when are the minister and his government colleagues going to make a decision about where a new major electrical supply plant is going to be built and the date of the construction, to ensure residents across the province that by the end of the 1990s we are going to have enough electricity, with the consumption increases that have been reported and the demand by the people of Ontario?

**Hon Mr Wong:** The honourable member has raised two issues, actually. The second issue deals with the demand and supply picture for

electricity in Ontario. As the honourable member knows, we have a multi-year process that has been ongoing. We are more than halfway through it, and in a very open way, the province will make those decisions.

With respect to the decision the member initially asked about in his first question, we have a legal process. We have a process through which this matter should be decided.

#### RAIL SERVICES

**Mr Neumann:** My question is for the Minister of Transportation. The recent federal budget included drastic cuts to Via Rail. Recent media reports suggest that the federal Minister of Transport is considering further cuts to rail service up to and including the shutting down of Via Rail. On behalf of many Ontarians who rely on passenger rail service, I would like to ask the minister what actions he has undertaken to convince his federal counterpart to maintain this vital transportation service.

**Hon Mr Fulton:** I thank my colleague the member for Brantford for his question and his ongoing interest in the sustenance of Via Rail. Clearly, it is a federal responsibility to provide the intercity passenger service across the province and indeed across the country, and we view with some very real concern the reports in the paper and certainly the announcement made in the last federal budget. We feel very strongly that the people of Ontario require and deserve a very balanced system of transportation, which includes the busing industry, air and, very important, rail.

We have communicated on a number of occasions with my federal colleague and others, as recently as this past Saturday. Only yesterday, I wrote the Honourable Mr Bouchard to once again reiterate Ontario's position with respect to the retention of Via Rail services within Ontario.

**Mr Neumann:** I am pleased the minister recognizes the importance of this service. In spite of the efforts undertaken, however, it is conceivable that the federal government could proceed with the scrapping of Via Rail. This could cause serious problems for the many daily commuters from our community, Brantford, who rely on this service to get to work.

Is the minister prepared to consider extending GO service to our area in the event of a federal decision to scrap Via Rail? Recently commuters from our area have approached me about this. What answer would the minister propose that we give to people who are turning to this option?

**Hon Mr Fulton:** It is very unclear, as we read the daily papers, just precisely in what direction the federal government is going to go. It would appear the federal minister will be reviewing a financial plan some time, I think, by the end of this month or in early July and will make some final decisions with respect to service. I know that eastern Canada has had strong indication of a complete withdrawal of service, and it may be that Ontario will benefit for some time to come yet.

It is not in our plan to extend GO service into Brantford. It is beyond our legislated jurisdiction with respect to the areas of service for GO service, but I do offer my colleague and his constituents the facts that we are improving dramatically and almost weekly the services of GO trains, GO buses, the parking lots, access to the Lakeshore line in Burlington, in particular, as it affects Brantford. We also have ongoing and future highway connections and highway improvements, and certainly will help promote the intercity bus services between the two points.

#### STANDING ORDERS

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** My question is for the government House leader. This unilateral act by the executive council deciding what the rules of this House of elected people should be is, in my view, reminiscent of a Family Compact-style act. Members on the other side of the government should always remember that government should act in Parliament as if it will be in opposition some day and should always remember that.

If this is not a punitive act because of successes we have had using the rules that exist, why did the government House leader not bring in the countervailing proposals that have been suggested by committees of this House, agreed to by all parties, which he has down in writing? Why did he not bring in any of those but only a list of punitive acts against this opposition?

**Hon Mr Conway:** I do not share the analysis, in so far as I believe that a number of the recommendations—

Interjection.

**Hon Mr Conway:** I would appreciate the chance to answer a very good question.

I do not share the analysis, because I believe a number of the specific items, like the new standing committee on estimates, like the new mechanism for opposition days, are an important recognition of the very vital role an opposition must play in our Parliament.

I want to agree with my friend the member for Scarborough West (Mr R. F. Johnston). I want to

make it very plain that I understand what it was like to be in opposition and I always operate on the basis that some day I might very well return.

Finally, it is surely no success to speak of to waste \$130,000 a day while the taxpayers pay for this place to operate and nobody shows up for work. I cannot believe that any honourable members imagine that kind of achievement is any success to credit or to crow about.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** I do not think there is a price that can be put on accountability and the democratic process. We are accountable to our electorate if it feels we have misused that. We are not accountable to the executive council of the government.

I would like to ask the government House leader why, in punishing us, has he abrogated so severely a right of petitioning Parliament which goes back to the 13th century, which is the one recourse the public has to get its views across to this House? The Liberals have to bring in their petitions even if they do not agree with them. They reduce that to three minutes a side on a day when there may be many petitions from 130 ridings which are demanding to be heard. Why is he doing that without any change to the standing orders, as has been suggested, around petitions? It is here in fine writing by one of the committees of this House.

**Hon Mr Conway:** I think it is important for me to note again that there is nothing in these proposed changes that will limit debate, that will deny any opportunity to vigorously oppose the government. I repeat that there are new opportunities for the opposition to have at the government.

What this proposal does, and I want to be very clear about that, is that it removes the right to use petitions and bells as a means to hijack Parliament and to hold the whole place hostage. That kind of obstruction is going to be removed from this place, as it has been removed from virtually every other Parliament in the land. We should be very clear about that. The government has a responsibility to the people of Ontario to take action in this respect to make this a more effective place.

I repeat. Surely my friend the member for Scarborough West does not like the idea of ringing bells in a way, for example, that the time is wasted and \$130,000 a day that is paid out produces nothing in the way of debate, amendment or division. That is what we are going to stop.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. The member might just as well rest. I am just going to rest and wait until we get some order.

1540

#### ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**Mrs Marland:** My question is to the Minister of Citizenship. It is now six weeks since I asked the minister if he would refer the matter of the Ontario Human Rights Commission to an all-party legislative committee. He said six weeks ago he had no difficulty with that.

It is now one week since the report on the Ontario Human Rights Commission came out: a report done by the minister's government. In this report, we have learned that there are "instances of irregular hiring practices." We have learned that there is "no employment equity plan in place at time of recruitment." We have—

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** They rang the bells all weekend. He spoke for seven and a half hours.

**Mr Faubert:** Absolute nonsense. He did not do any such thing.

**The Speaker:** Order. The member for Scarborough West—

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** Yes, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Remember standing order 24(b).

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** I thought that was changed.

Interjections.

**Mrs Marland:** We have learned that the commission "has exaggerated participation of employment equity target groups in senior management and may have overstated the improvement in the processing of complaints."

We have learned that the "disposition of additional moneys does not fully substantiate" the commission's public statements.

We have also learned that "events over the past 12 months have resulted in the degeneration of staff morale; it is now at a very low level."

My question to the minister is, does he, as the Minister of Citizenship, care enough about the people of this province to get the matter of the Ontario Human Rights Commission once and for all out in the open so that the allegations and problems can be dealt with by the all-party legislative committee? The House leaders have agreed—

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Phillips:** First, the chief commissioner is an individual who cares deeply about human rights. The report says: "From these contacts

with the chief commissioner, it is our opinion that he is a person of honesty and integrity who is deeply committed to human rights, to the Ontario Human Rights Commission and to its new directions. Nothing we discovered in our review has given us cause to question this perception."

Second, as I have said in this House before, I would be happy for the matter to go to an all-party legislative committee. I have asked the House leader to review it with other House leaders, and at the appropriate moment for it to go to the appropriate committee. I have absolutely nothing that would be inappropriate to discuss with that committee.

It has been through the most thorough review imaginable and made public, as I said it would be. And I have said we would take it to an all-party legislative committee. Nothing could be more open, more fully discussed, more honest, in dealing with a very important matter.

Frankly, to continue to suggest that our chief commissioner did anything other than try his best, albeit making a couple of mistakes, is inappropriate.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** I would just like to advise the member for Mississauga South that the question period is over. The responses are finished.

## PETITIONS

### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr Miller:** I have a petition from the Delhi Public School, Norfolk Board of Education.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to May 31, 1982, have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"The proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

It is signed by 72 teachers of the Norfolk Board of Education.

I have a second petition. It is from the Tillson Avenue Public School in Tillsonburg and is signed by 14 signatures, to which I attach my name. It is also addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Mr Kormos:** I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario:

"Whereas Bill 162 (a) does nothing to improve lifetime pensions (especially for disease and soft-tissue injuries); (b) denies injured workers the right to rehabilitation; (c) offers re-employment rights that are less than afforded by the human rights act; (d) gives too much discretionary power to the WCB to deny injured workers benefits; (e) restricts injured workers the right to appeal;

"We request this assembly to advise the Labour minister, the Honourable Gregory Sorbara, to withdraw said Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act."

It is signed by Tom Scalzo of Welland and nine others and of course I have added my signature to it.

I have one other petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We care about injured workers. We protest the Minister of Labour's proposal to change the law that would take away injured workers' rights to permanent disability pensions when they are permanently disabled; that would do almost nothing about the miserable compensation of existing injured workers and their widows, and that would leave the injured workers of the future worse off. Workers who are killed or injured in their work deserve much better treatment than this."

It is signed by Robert Kowalsky of Welland and one other and I of course have added my signature to it as well.

### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr Mackenzie:** I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government of Ontario in its discussions with the Ontario Teachers' Federation on amendments to the Teachers' Superannuation Act has refused to allow an equal partnership between teachers and government in management of the pension fund, establishment of an acceptable contribution increase, benefit adjustments, equitable treatment of future surpluses and a satisfactory dispute resolution process,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to insist that the Treasurer of Ontario negotiate with the Ontario Teachers' Federation towards an equitable settlement."

It is signed by some 18 citizens and I have attached my name to it. I figured I better get it in before we have the rights to petition the House taken away.

#### SECURITY IN PREMISES USED BY PUBLIC

**Mr Sterling:** I have a petition from 58 people from the riding of Brant-Haldimand.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We request that the Ministry of the Attorney General withdraw Bill 149, An Act to amend the Trespass to Property Act, which we believe is unnecessary and without mandate.

"While we respect the rights of minorities and youth, whom Bill 149 alleges to protect, we oppose the way in which the proposed legislation will erode the ability of owners and occupiers to provide a safe and hospitable environment for their patrons or customers. We are further concerned about the legislation's potential for increasing confrontation in the already difficult process of removing individuals who create disturbances on publicly used premises."

This is the second such petition that I have signed.

#### NATUROPATHY

**Ms Bryden:** I am proud to exercise my right to present petitions submitted by my constituents and other residents of Ontario. I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario on the subject of naturopathy. It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is my constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of my preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

I have signed this petition and I support it.

1550

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### INNOMED INC ACT, 1989

Mrs LeBourdais moved first reading of Bill Pr27, An Act to revive Innomed Inc.

Motion agreed to.

##### ANGELATO SERVICE CENTRE LTD ACT, 1989

Mr Sterling moved first reading of Bill Pr26, An Act to revive Angelato Service Centre Ltd.

Motion agreed to.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

##### AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE RATES CONTROL ACT, 1989

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 10, An Act to control Automobile Insurance Rates.

**Mr Morin-Strom:** I appreciate the opportunity to address the issue of auto insurance again, an issue which this government has had so much difficulty in coming to grips with over the last three years. This government moves from one attempted solution to another, all the while avoiding what is really and truly the only solution for Ontario, the solution that worked so well for western provinces in our country, a solution which we know is the only one that will bring lower and reasonably priced auto insurance to the consumers of our province. That is a public auto insurance system.

This bill, again, is a stopgap measure intended to stem the tide briefly while the government considers another round of solutions, all the while continuing to avoid what has to be the final solution. I take this opportunity to bring the people of Ontario up to date on the issue of auto insurance.

It has been almost two years now since the Premier (Mr Peterson), in the midst of the last provincial election campaign, announced that he had "a very specific plan to reduce auto insurance premiums." It was a promise made in desperation late in the election campaign, in fact just three days before voting day, when he attempted to undermine the popular NDP policy of implementing a driver-owned, nonprofit, public auto insurance program.

As we are all aware, the people of Ontario took him at his word and a huge Liberal majority was returned to Queen's Park. Fortunately, the people of Sault Ste Marie saw through the Premier's empty rhetoric and empty promise in

this particular case, and the events of the past two years have now stripped the Liberals of any credibility on this issue.

**Hon Mr Elston:** Karl, we thought they were voting for you, not against David.

**Mr Morin-Strom:** On 26 April 1989, New Democrats called for an emergency debate on the Liberals' handling of the automobile insurance issue.

**Hon Mr Elston:** You were telling them that you were a good candidate. We thought they believed you.

**Mr Morin-Strom:** I did not hear the member. They are a little wiser than some of the other communities in this province.

I would like to address some of the issues regarding auto insurance and how it has developed by this Liberal government over the last couple of years. Naturally, it is vitally important that I, and all New Democrats, restate our commitment to a driver-owned nonprofit public auto insurance system. It is not pure accident, rural economy or government subsidies that give people with driver-owned plans a fair and affordable auto insurance system. It is not greed by Ontario drivers that causes the problem here.

Driver-owned plans provide massive savings. These plans are more efficient, putting the interest earned on investment back into the system to reduce premiums significantly. The nonprofit nature of the driver-owned system saves motorists millions of dollars. That is what consumer protection is: giving the drivers of Ontario a better deal.

The drivers of Ontario understand that. If New Democrats say that we will provide auto insurance at a cheaper rate by plowing back the profits of insurance to reduce premiums, that makes good consumer protection legislation and it certainly is a very important difference between our proposal and the Liberal proposal in this particular bill.

Ontario drivers deserve much better than they have been offered by the Liberals over the last several years. The drivers of this province deserve an auto insurance system with fair, affordable rates; one which rewards good drivers by making sure they pay less, treats drivers fairly and provides insurance at affordable rates.

We remain committed to public auto insurance in Ontario. The driving public cannot afford any more broken promises. Certainly, this bill, which is going to enshrine further a third round of auto insurance increases by this Liberal government since the commitment was made during the last election campaign, when the Premier stated

that he had "a very specific plan to reduce auto insurance premiums." This bill enshrines the third round of auto insurance increases that have been approved by this government since the time of that promise.

We have warned the Liberals what would happen if they allied themselves with the insurance companies by setting up the auto insurance review board. The fact that bill was passed last year was not the end of the battle. It was just the beginning of the battle. The battleground has changed because up to now, when the drivers of Ontario were getting upset, when the drivers of Ontario were getting those extra premium increases and when the drivers of Ontario were angry, they were angry with the insurance industry.

But now, with the commitments that this government has made to the insurance industry and the work that they have done with that industry through the auto insurance review board, the drivers of Ontario know that it is not just the insurance industry that is at fault, but in fact that it is at least as much the Liberal government of Ontario.

It has not been as though the government was really proposing something new. Its course of action has already been attempted in other jurisdictions with disastrous results for the consumer. In the United States, rate-setting boards have been established in a number of states, and the result and the history of these is very clear. It does not take long before they become the captives of the enterprises they are supposed to be regulating, and it does not take long before consumer interests are lost and shuffled along in the bureaucratic melees.

What we predicted would happen did in fact become a reality. Auto insurance premiums have continued to escalate. Add up the increases in the 18 months after the Premier made his commitment to lower rates and we are talking about 16.6 per cent increases. That represents increases far above the rate of inflation, at a time when the Premier had said, "We are going to reduce the cost of auto insurance." The people of Ontario clearly heard what the Premier said, and the reality of the matter is that premiums did not go down, they went up far above the rate of inflation.

#### 1600

With the Liberal government's proposed solution in the last bill we addressed, the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board Act, we were confronted with the possibility of 30 per cent increases on a million drivers in Ontario, with

some increases of 80 to 90 per cent. Even the Liberals finally had to say to their big business friends, "Hey, we can't stand this kind of heat."

The Liberals have indeed begun to feel the heat of public opinion on this issue. There have been concerned constituents calling all of our offices and asking us to put pressure on the Liberals. I want to reassure the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr Elston) that we know what has changed his mind. We hear from the public in our constituency offices. We have had senior citizens coming into our offices who have received that letter from the insurance company saying, "Should you wish to renew, we anticipate your premium for the year will be 30 to 40 per cent more than it was."

I have had other people coming into my constituency office with questionnaires from the insurance company asking them every question from how old they are, how far they drive, when they drive, where they drive etc. Some of their questionnaires are incredibly detailed and people unmistakably have been upset about it. What could have happened in an insurance industry for it to want to know all this information all of a sudden?

It has been very clear on this issue that the Liberals have been completely out to sea. They cannot tell me that all this has been planned, because if it has been planned the people of Ontario truly have been misguided by this government. This government has gone from one interim solution to another without a concerted plan of action. That plan, which the Premier had stated would result in lower auto insurance premiums, was in fact a figment of his imagination and has never existed in this Liberal government. There was no plan; there never was a plan; there still is no plan; and indeed the government continues to fly by the seat of its pants.

In this bill the Liberals will not solve the problem of auto insurance in Ontario. Back on 1 March 1989 the minister said it has been his position that he would not interfere in the hearing process. Similarly, in January, just two months earlier, he had said he would not interfere with the tribunal. He set up what was supposed to be an independent tribunal. Then when the heat comes on and the consumer groups say, "We are being gouged; we cannot take the kind of insurance rates we are getting from the review board," the minister, the cabinet and the Premier or whatever little group in the Office of the Premier seems to dictate to all Liberals what they

have to do, bring the axe down and the minister is cut off at the knees and told:

"You can't do that. Sure we said we would set up an independent tribunal; sure it cost the taxpayers \$7 million but my goodness, it is not working out the way we want it and we are losing votes on this, so we had better do something."

What they do is propose a new piece of legislation which will be in effect only for a period of less than two years. Then where do we go? To another interim solution from this government, another way of stalling on an issue that some day they are going to have to address.

In fact, I suspect that we are going to see a new solution from this government before the next election. Certainly this bill cannot be their final attempt on this particular issue. The government is going to feel the heat from this bill and from the insurance rate increases that consumers are going to face in Ontario. I would suggest that at some point the government may well have, deep down in its agenda, the recognition that what it is going to have to do ultimately is look at our solution, the solution it has been steadfastly avoiding all these years.

It will come as no surprise that the Liberals refused to recognize that they were wrong and that they demonstrated on this issue utter incompetence in their handling of the whole matter.

I would say, by way of conclusion, as well that there is something called accountability, something that even people in the private sector have to stand by in terms of meeting the bottom line. What if a company that any of the members of the Liberal Party worked with carried on with such a degree of incompetence and then proceeded to accuse everybody who disagreed with it of being stupid, ignorant, malicious and of deliberately misleading people? That is what the minister has said about us in the past, and has turned around and said, "The Liberals are here to protect the consumer." He has not had the grace to admit that he was wrong. He has never had the grace to admit that he made a mistake. He has never admitted that they blew it with the rate review board. They blew it badly and should pay the price.

The minister should be accountable, and surely the Premier should be accountable for the commitment he made during the last election campaign. They are responsible for this mess and they will ultimately have to pay the price with their jobs. The people of Ontario will not stand for the inaction and ineptitude of this government on the auto insurance issue.

The tragedy for the Liberals is that the auto insurance issue will not go away, nor can it be solved by their traditional problem-solving strategies. The reality of the matter is that auto insurance poses a problem for the Liberals because it basically does not fit into their pattern of solving problems. It is very difficult for the Liberal government to pass on this responsibility to municipalities, for example. It does not fit easily into that package. It is very difficult to have a concept of a lottery for auto insurance. The kinds of solutions the Liberals look at just will not work to solve this particular problem.

Sooner or later, the Liberal government is going to have to face reality. What will happen in 1990 when this bill runs out, when the cap on auto insurance rates comes to an end? That is what they are going to have to face before the next election. Like other consumers, drivers are beginning to take to task the Minister of Financial Institutions. Drivers know that they can get a better deal from other provinces than they are getting from their current Ontario government.

In evaluating the auto insurance system offered by New Democrats, drivers will find that it is neither a plan conceived in desperation nor a ploy to satisfy the insurance companies. Instead, they will find a proven product.

It is remarkable, in view of the fact that public auto insurance was introduced in Saskatchewan as far back as 1946, that political parties which at the time were the opposition and opposed those plans, as they did in Manitoba and British Columbia, since the introduction of those plans, formed the government and yet those same political parties which had opposed it did not dare to tinker with or dismantle the public, driver-owned, nonprofit insurance plans in those provinces.

Why? Because those plans have worked. They are more efficient and provide insurance that is affordable, that is provided fairly, that encourages good drivers to keep on being good drivers and similarly discourages bad drivers by imposing higher rates.

The drivers of Ontario can see the difference between our solution and the Liberal solution. We mean what we say and we say what we mean. We stand for a system that has been proved and that, in the long run, is the only solution this government is going to have to turn to if it is ever going to solve the morass it is currently in.

The bill that we are debating today is only an interim solution for this government. It will not solve the auto insurance problem facing the drivers of our province. It will not provide fair,

just, equitable rates that are affordable for drivers everywhere in Ontario. A solution does exist and this government should get on with implementing it.

**Mr Cureatz:** It is with a great deal of pleasure that I stand this afternoon, and, as I cast my eyes about me, I feel great sorrow to think that there is not a quorum to listen to me speak.

The Deputy Speaker ordered the bells rung.

1612

**The Deputy Speaker:** A quorum is present. The member for Durham East may proceed.

**Mr Cureatz:** I feel so much more gratified to think that I now have the attention of all those nasty demagogues over there who are going to come forward with the changing of the rules. But the minister should not think for one minute that he is going to miss the wrath of one or two of my concerns or comments. It is very interesting to see that the first thing the large, arrogant—

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The member from wherever stood up to demand a quorum attendance. None of the Progressive Conservatives came in to listen to him and then—

**The Deputy Speaker:** The point of order?

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** Wait a second, Mr Deputy Speaker. He then proceeded to tell us that we were arrogant demagogues. We are here to listen. None of the Progressive Conservatives is here.

**The Deputy Speaker:** That is not a point of order. The member may proceed.

**Mr Cureatz:** I chuckle at the comments from the member for York Mills because we all know who sits on his executive, do we not? The infamous Ms Starr. Of course, with that kind of input we would not accept—

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** On a point of privilege, Mr Deputy Speaker: I understand that the member is required to speak the truth in this House. If he wants to say things about the executive of my riding association, then they had better be true. In this case, they are not, and I ask for a retraction.

**Mr Cureatz:** I am glad the honourable member has clarified that for me, and of course we will be looking with great interest at his—

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I asked for a retraction.

**The Deputy Speaker:** What is there to retract?

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** He said something which is untrue. I asked him for a retraction. If he

acknowledges the untruth of it, then he should retract it.

**Mr Cureatz:** I am always easy to get along with. If the member has indicated that such is the case, that she is not a member of the executive, that is fine with me. We do not want to cause a great dislocation, as has already taken place in the assembly.

Not only will this Bill 10 be of some concern to all of us, but indeed the proposed rule changes that the House leader has brought forward, the people on the back bench ain't seen nothing yet. Mark my words, the official opposition, and I have a feeling my own party, will be going to the wall on this one. Indeed, my colleague the member for Carleton (Mr Sterling) indicated a serious concern of the possibility of an election over that issue.

I could just see the member for Durham-York (Mr Ballinger) trying to explain Bill 10 and the rule changes through the dictatorial way in which it is being brought forward.

**Mr Ballinger:** It is called productivity.

**Mr Cureatz:** He will have a very difficult time explaining the kind of process which is unprecedented in these chambers, just like Bill 10 is unprecedented in these chambers. It surely shows the—

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. Could I remind the members again—

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** As I was saying, may I remind the members again of the standing orders, as we have them now, of one member at a time? The member for Durham East may proceed.

**Mr Cureatz:** Of course, Mr Speaker. I am glad you reminded me of that process, because from time to time I do forget and I appreciate your refreshing my memory on that aspect.

Of course, this introduction of the change of rules is very typical of what we are seeing on Bill 10—total lack of precedent. It is like the pendulum of the clock swinging like it is, up here in the chamber, back and forth, back and forth, and this coming from one of the ministers of whom actually I am very appreciative. In the old days, when he was in opposition and I was in government, we actually got along.

I can remember, on a particular occasion when I was parliamentary assistant to then Solicitor General, the infamous George Taylor, he indicated to me: "You know what? When you are parliamentary assistant, you should not take any members out for dinner." I could never under-

stand that. I thought that was the whole point, so members could take some of their colleagues out and find out what is going on around this place.

If memory serves me correctly, members never found out in caucus what is going on, and I have a sneaky suspicion it is the same way over there, that they do not find out what is going in caucus.

Of course, we saw that in Sunday shopping and we are seeing that now in Bill 10. I saw the minister—I had the opportunity of seeing this earlier, when we started up again—come out of his press conference with his entourage of two, staggering forth, head down, forlorn, knowing that he was a beaten person, knowing that the \$7 million that he had spent on the infamous insurance board was all for nought.

I will say that he puts on a pretty good front and that solemn face, as I remember when he was Minister of Health in the minority government—boy, do I get a chuckle out of listening to the official opposition reminding this Liberal government about the famous accord—holy smokes—with all due respect to the official opposition, for whom I have nothing but the highest respect. They put those guys in power and then they come back with this arrogant majority. In my front bench, there was yelling and screaming, but that front bench was yelling and screaming more, to such a degree that the Speaker had to adjourn the House for 10 minutes so that he could call order.

I am mildly amused to see now that the official opposition that had put in this government is now ranting and raving about the process the government is following with rule changes. I thought the House leader for the official opposition spoke very well against what the House leader for the government is doing in the introduction of these House rules. The manner in which those people are changing the rules is unprecedented.

As a matter of fact, that goes for Bill 10. I see my colleague over here on the rump—and he might as well enjoy it, because as I give him my backbench speech—members know what my colleague the member for London North (Mrs Cunningham) says, "Kissing you all goodbye." Do not worry; Bill 10 is just the start of it.

1620

Of course, it reminds me of the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon) trying to explain the discrepancy in beer prices. The Minister of Financial Institutions hopes to be the next Treasurer, because we all know the Treasurer is going off to his great reward over at Ontario Hydro, the glass pyramid over there, and he is going to become chairman. Lo and behold, the Minister of Financial

Institutions is going to wander over and sit there and try to run the province. He has his test cut out for him on Bill 10, because, as I indicated, this issue that was so well addressed by the Premier during the last election has now fallen into chaos.

The government managed to survive Sunday shopping. We have not seen the repercussions yet, but they are going to unfold. I have a sneaky suspicion that Bill 10—I am reminding the minister, because he has forgotten the number of his bill—is going to be hanging around just as the election is about to be called, because the official opposition members are quite concerned about some views and ideas that they have about automobile insurance.

Between that and the unprecedented avenue that the government House leader has taken for rule changes, we are going to have some big and fun times in this House and we are going to be lucky to get out before Thanksgiving, if we do not sit all the way through to Christmas. I do remember a time in here when we sat through Christmas and I had the opportunity of speaking once or twice at that time.

There might be the odd person across Ontario with the children just coming home and turning on the cartoons, who might say, "Hey, what is going down in the Ontario Legislature outside of this unprecedented procedure of changing the rules?" We are discussing Bill 10 and they are all interested about what this legislation does.

Here is what it does. The bill will effectively rescind orders issued by the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board on 1 February 1989, 13 February 1989 and 16 March 1989. That all stems from a previous piece of legislation which was going to be the be-all and end-all of automobile insurance: the infamous Bill 2.

What happened with the various discussions at the committee level with regard to that bill which led into this bill? We had a number of deputations from the insurance companies across the province expressing their concerns about the manner in which the government was intervening in the automobile insurance industry across Ontario. I have to refer to John McArthur of Safeco, because I had the good opportunity of sitting in on that committee. Here is what Mr McArthur had to say, because I know the minister will be deeply interested in the concerns that he had about Bill 2.

Of course, I know the member for Wentworth East (Ms Collins) wants to know why it ties into Bill 10, because now Bill 10 sort of does away with Bill 2 and we have to start all over again, after spending \$7 million. The House leader

stood up with crocodile tears, saying that \$130,000 a day were wasted as the bells were ringing. I would like to hear the minister stand up and explain about the \$7 million on the insurance board. He should write that down; I know he will have an answer there: that it is all going to be worthwhile, it is all going to work out, sure as shooting. And after he pulled the rug from underneath Mr Kruger, who was the great Liberal guru from downtown Toronto, and he was going to resolve all these problems and issues, and the minister winds up stabbing him in the old back—well, welcome to Liberal politics here in Ontario.

Mr McArthur said: "While we appreciate the government's motivation for implementing a basic classification system, Safeco does not feel that a uniform classification system is in the best interests of Ontario consumers, as it will stifle competition and prevent the development of innovative marketing by individual underwriters. Under the proposed gender list rating approach, for males under 25 to pay less, mature drivers and females under 25 will have to pay more. In many instances, this will expose mature drivers and females under 25 to significant rate increases in order to subsidize underage male drivers."

This is very interesting because here they were centring in on major rate increases that would take place and, lo and behold, why does the minister come in with Bill 10 to put a cap on rate increases? I will tell members why.

Let's look into the crystal ball, into a particular Liberal caucus on a particular Tuesday morning. Let's listen in to all the Liberal backbenchers starting to get phone calls from their various constituents in their riding offices who were beginning to get the feedback from the insurance companies as to what their premiums were going to be. The Liberal backbenchers thought, "Well, we were able to get through Sunday shopping." But this one was starting to hurt right in the old pocketbook.

At that caucus meeting, there began a development and if that is the case, I give credit to the Liberal backbenchers. A little applause for the backbenchers.

This is interesting. This is a really good one. There are 30 people in cabinet. The government has 94 seats. We have a minister who has resigned, the Solicitor General. The Premier could not find one backbencher who was good enough to take over the job of Solicitor General. Not one of them was good enough. Unbelievable. Incredible. Not one of the members could

take over. As if there are not enough members, 30 from 94 is 64, you would think he could have found one backbencher to fill the shoes of the Solicitor General.

**Ms Collins:** What's this got to do with Bill 10?

**Mr Cureatz:** Getting a little close to home here? Hurting a little bit?

The Premier had to call on the Attorney General (Mr Scott) to take over. He looked to the back. He looked to the north and the south and way over here to the rump, and he could not find one. Goodness knows, it makes you wonder why in the world they ever tinkered with the insurance industry under Bill 10.

No wonder he was concerned that the whole thing was getting out of hand. Just look at the list. Members can look at the list for question period today, all the way down through the issues that are starting to hound this government, including Ontario Place, the Minister of Housing (Ms Hošek), automobile insurance and Bill 10. The government has a one-way ticket to defeat.

What else did some of the insurance companies have to say about that old Bill 2? John Lyndon, president of the Insurance Bureau of Canada, stated, "Another major concern with Bill 2 or at least with plans for implementing some of its provisions is that there is a significant potential for massive dislocations for individual consumers."

Do you think the minister heard? I do not think so. With this large, arrogant, majority government, he just plowed ahead.

Interjection.

**Mr Cureatz:** Listen, at least I am not saying that the government was bought off by the insurance companies because I know this minister and I respect him very much. I can remember a particular little cheap dinner I bought him up on Bloor Street, and I can tell members, they cannot find a more-placid is not the word—agreeable person.

It just so happens he is on a particular tangent that he has not quite recovered from. He managed with the doctors under minority government because he had the support of the New Democratic Party. But on this one, he is on his own, and he heard from the Liberal backbench that those insurance rates were skyrocketing. Actually, the insurance companies were not even too sure. One individual said it was going to be a 33 per cent increase; other people said 25 per cent. The minister was on the hot seat and he had chaos in the insurance industry and so what did he do? Bill 10.

Continuing with John Lyndon, "I cannot emphasize too strongly that the real problems facing auto insurers and consumers today is the cost of settling claims. Until those costs are reduced, there can be no significant control of the cost of auto insurance in this province. The provisions of Bill 2 alone will neither contain nor reduce costs. With the introduction of a new classification system, many drivers could be seriously disadvantaged and it could result in some widespread anger by those segments of the insurance public that are adversely affected."

1630

Let me just refresh the members' memories: "It could result in some widespread anger by those segments of the insurance public that are adversely affected." That is exactly what happened, and that is why we are here today discussing Bill 10. The minister turned a deaf ear to all those indications about what was taking place out there in the real world on what would happen with Bill 2—he is shaking his head and he is pleading—

**An hon member:** He's denying it.

**Mr Cureatz:** I know, and he thinks he is going to have, in his best humble way, a satisfactory answer about why he had to bring in Bill 10. The interesting aspect of all of this, and I am going to wait with great curiosity, is the process—

**Hon Mr Elston:** And with a chuckle.

**Mr Cureatz:** That is a cross between a chuckle and snuckle, and I just cannot quite make up my mind which way to go. If Joe Clark can make up new words, why cannot I?

**Hon Mr Elston:** A man who would be Joe Clark.

**Mr Cureatz:** I can chew gum and walk at the same time.

Here are the minister's announcements. Let's just follow step by step the chaos that the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet has found himself in. I bet that on the weekends he is so happy to get into that limo and go out to Lake Huron and that lovely countryside and put all these problems behind him. Here he is; he is going to have to suffer through another few minutes of myself in terms of this bill, Bill 10.

The minister's announcements: "Financial Institutions Minister Murray Elston stood in the Legislature"—I like reading these parts; these are good—"on March 1, 1989, to say, 'It has been my position right along'"—oh, this is really good; I like this—"that I would not interfere with the hearing process.'" I just love that.

"Then the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board was established and it is arm's length from government. It was charged with establishing ranges of rates which are just and reasonable and not excessive or inadequate. The OAIB announced its benchmark rate decisions February 13, 1989," as we are progressing along into the new year.

"On April 17, 1989, Financial Institutions Minister Elston broke his vow to let the OAIB go about its business without political interference. The minister announced a rate hike. How can the government backbenchers just sit back and take this? Here he is standing, time and time again, saying he will not interfere. Then, "The minister announced a rate-hike cap of 7.6 per cent in order to prevent unacceptable increases which the province's insurance companies had demanded."

**Mr Faubert:** Right.

**Mr Cureatz:** Somebody said, "Right"—the old honourable member for Scarborough-Ellesmere. But the thing was, the minister was told about what would happen back through the hearings of Bill 2. Now the minister is going to tell me that it was through the \$7-million expenditure of the board that he found out there were going to be excessive increases. I do not know how the minister looks in the mirror in the morning and shaves. Does he not blush a little bit? None whatsoever. To think that he said he would not interfere—

**Mr Pollock:** He takes his glasses off.

**Mr Cureatz:** That is it. I have problems with seeing too. I wear contact lenses and glasses. My colleague has indicated that he takes his glasses off so that he cannot tell whether he is blushing or not. Maybe that is the answer. Why does he not just get a little closer to the mirror one morning and see whether he is blushing? I do not know how he lives with himself when he comes out with statements like this. Then what does he do? He interferes.

Here is the good part; this is really good. "The decision of the OAIB, which cost taxpayers well over \$7 million to produce, is all for nought." I want to hear with great interest what the minister has to say about—

**Hon Mr Elston:** That's his story.

**Mr Cureatz:** Well, it is my story. I am just waiting with great anticipation to hear what the minister's story is. Anyway, he owes me a dinner.

**Hon Mr Elston:** I did. How short the memory.

**Mr Cureatz:** Oh no, he does not; he did take me out. That is right. I guess we are even now. I just remembered.

**Mr Breagh:** Two of Kwinter's finest hot-dogs, I bet.

**Mr Cureatz:** Yes, we went down to Front Street there at the big fancy hotel. We did not buy a hotdog from one of the venders; we bought it from the hotel.

"OAIB chairman John Kruger hinted that he would consider resigning"—oh oh, this is the good part—"if the minister ever interfered again." Let me see. What is the process here?

**Mr Faubert:** He said he would consider it.

**Mr Cureatz:** Oh, he would consider it. "Said Kruger, 'My concern isn't this time, but if it happens again—and again, and again.'" I will tell members he had better be ready because the way this minister is reeling on this issue there is going to be all kinds of intervention yet.

Interjection.

**Mr Cureatz:** Do not worry, I am going to conclude here about what we all anticipated. This is not the end of it. As members well know we are going to get on with other aspects of the extension of Bill 10. The minister's actions have proved costly for insurance companies which were in the process of preparing to adjust to a new risk classification system come 1 June.

That is true. I read all kinds of articles in the papers. As a matter of fact, I think it was Mr McArthur again indicating the costs that Safeco had laid out for the new adjustment and the proposal under the recommendation of Bill 2, and now the minister has interfered again. I would like to hear his answer to that and to the insurance companies. I mean, what does the minister tell him and then what takes place? The insurance companies pass on the increase in the premiums to all the policyholders, and then whom do the policyholders blame? Well, maybe they should be blaming our esteemed minister here, because he was the one who intervened and cost the insurance companies the extra money.

Could I just hear a little word about whether the minister thinks the insurance companies did extend more moneys in anticipation of the new program but then had to set the program aside? Write that down. I have a sneaky feeling that he does not have an answer to that one, not to substantiate in terms of the moneys that have been lost by the insurance companies. Of course, he is thinking like a lawyer. He is going to say, "Oh no, the insurance companies can just set those programs aside, and finally some time in

the future, when we set up the whole new system that is going to come forward from the investigation—maybe no-fault—then they are going to be able to take that process and try to plug it in.”

I do not think it is going to work that easily, because I bet that with those computers they had to set up a whole new system. The minister is shaking his head. He is such an expert. What, he is a computer expert? He graduated from the University of Toronto in maths, physics and sciences or something. Or, all his entourage, have they been able to give him input about the expenditures made by insurance companies? All this is because of the policy the minister brought forward on Bill 2, and then he had to intervene—and he said he would not intervene—so he could cap the insurance rates and keep his backbenchers here happy because they were starting to feel the heat.

I have it on good authority that there was a Liberal member from the region of Durham who indicated he was happy as all get out that the government was intervening to put a cap on insurance premiums because he was starting to get the heat from constituents about the increases in automobile insurance under the new system.

Safeco spent more than \$1.5 million on the computer changes alone. Co-operators General Insurance Co spent close to \$2 million in order to accommodate the new class plan and was within two weeks of mailing out the first premium notices containing rate increases calculated on the new plan.

I mean, they are running the government. I can understand that they have to justify blowing their own \$7 million on the board, but I do not understand how they can feel comfortable in letting insurance companies spend these kinds of funds—not that I am a big fan of the insurance companies particularly—

**Hon Mr Elston:** Ah, now let us hear the full story. Here comes the apologist.

**Mr Cureatz:** If the member wants to get apologists for the insurance companies he should speak to the honourable member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr Runciman); I am sure he will come up with a statement or two in thoughts and concerns that he has.

**Mr Faubert:** Oh, shame.

**Mr Cureatz:** Well, listen. I am not about to just cast darts at the government. I think it is fun to poke in terms of policy positions and decisions of all parties.

Confusion exists as to whether insurance companies should follow the directives of—the

minister should make a note of this and never mind speaking with the member for Elgin (Miss Roberts). Is the minister ready for this?

Confusion exists as to whether insurance companies should follow the directives of the OAIB or those of the Minister of Financial Institutions. The minister told insurance companies to ignore OAIB decisions. I guess that is why Mr Kruger was angry. He was trying to justify his job. However, there is no legislation in effect—that is Bill 10—covering insurance rates in Ontario other than Bill 2 which created the OAIB in the first place, if the minister told the insurance companies to ignore OAIB decisions.

Who is calling the shots? I suspect the minister is, because he is going to get his legislation eventually passed in this big, arrogant majority government.

**1640**

As we saw fit in terms of the proposal they brought forward on amending the rules, I am going to say to the backbench Liberals again, they ain't seen nothing yet. They thought the bells rang a long time over the member for London South (Mrs E. J. Smith) and Sunday shopping. Wait until this one comes down the tubes. We are going to have a long, hot summer here in the Legislature of Ontario.

Let me just conclude by pointing out to the minister that we are awaiting with great anticipation the investigative process that he, his ministry and the board are taking part in about the manner in which he is going to resolve the difficulty he has got himself into. He has partially brought Bill 10 to fruition, so that he puts a cap on, but now we have got to look down the line to 1990-91, election time. Does the minister think he will get this all straightened out by then? What are the alternatives?

It would appear it is going to have to be some type of no-fault with an option for greater coverage under the tort system. I do not know how that is going to work. I have to tell members that there are solicitors in the Durham Region Law Association whom my colleague the member for Durham Centre (Mr Furlong) is familiar with. On a particular winter's night I had the misfortune of not attending a particular meeting where at that time the member tried, I heard in vain, to defend the government policy on tort or no tort or no-fault in the judicial process.

I will tell members, he is going to have another difficult time with them again, although his only saving grace would be—and I say this to the minister, because being a lawyer, he would appreciate this—the lawyers might be a little

happy because they will still get a little piece of the action if the government has the possibility of allowing to go into the added tort system. But how in the world is it going to do that?

Think about it practically. When you go in for insurance, the person selling the insurance policy is going to say: "You see, we have here the standard policy set by the government of Ontario, straight no-fault. Here is what your awards are according to the damage to your vehicle or the harm suffered to you personally." So they look at that. That seems reasonable, but then the insurance salesperson is going to say, "But now you can buy the cream-of-the-crop policy."

For I do not know how many dollars more—and how do you determine what that extra money is going to be?—you can buy into the tort system. So if you get automatic coverage under the no-fault system, you can also have the possibility of suing if you think you are that incapacitated from an automobile accident or if your car is special or unique so that you want extra coverage.

I just cannot foresee how the minister is going to put that in law. I am looking with great interest to him. I guess he has hired a whole raft of lawyers over at his ministry and they are staying up late at night and on weekends with a bill about this thick. I am sure all 17 of us over here and 19 over there are going to be going through all the sections trying to figure out what it means.

Of course, this all goes back to the new open government without walls or barriers. We are going to wind up with a piece of legislation that I am sure is going to be so incomprehensible that the policyholder is going to have to hire a lawyer so that the lawyer, maybe, can explain the policy to him.

**Hon Mr Elston:** That's what they do now, Sam. It's done now.

**Mr Cureatz:** The Durham Region Law Association would no doubt be appreciative of that, I am sure. We can all suggest to them that maybe they should send a letter to the minister to encourage that process. I just do not know how else the government is going to get out of it. That is the only thing I have been able to determine. I cannot see our having total no-fault and I cannot see doing away totally with tort, so we are going to look with great anticipation.

This is the second volley. The first volley was Bill 2 and the spending of the \$7 million. Here is round two. There is going to be a round three yet and the round three is where are we going from here. I will tell the minister, if he has any hope of becoming Treasurer, he is going to have to

salvage this one pretty quickly, because the clock is running out, not only on me this afternoon but on this government.

Within another two years we will be facing the fine people of Ontario and I have every suspicion to believe that the Liberals will not be getting 94 or 95 seats again. I say that with great delight because I look around these chambers and wonder who on the list here will not come back.

**Mr Faubert:** Durham East.

**Mr Cureatz:** The member says "Durham East." The fine people of Durham East, thank goodness, have had the opportunity of re-electing me once, twice, thrice or four times and I suspect that I will have the opportunity of coming back again. With these kinds of policies that are taking place right here—

**Hon Mr Elston:** You haven't always been talking that way, Sam.

**Mr Cureatz:** Were we not elected together in 1975?

**Hon Mr Elston:** No. You were 1975 and I was 1981.

**Mr Cureatz:** The minister is from 1981? He is still wet behind the ears. No wonder he does not know what is going on in the automobile insurance business. I had the idea he came on in 1975 or 1977. Holy smokes. And he is trying to solve this one? Jeepers creepers. Unbelievable. I cannot understand it.

We are going to look with great anticipation because of course Bill 10 will finally pass. We have some other issues; nicer and bigger issues like the rule changes in this assembly. I am looking down the road because I am going to have great fun with the next piece of legislation that is taking place.

Interjection.

**Mr Cureatz:** I want to say to the member for Wentworth East that I find it passing strange that the Premier had the opportunity of putting in the second woman cabinet minister serving in the Solicitor General's office who is not a solicitor, but he did not pick the member, did he? He just happened to pick the Attorney General so that he could fill that vacancy.

I will tell members that all the backbenchers should be shaking their heads in terms of the neglect that the Premier has shown all of them. I mean, what kind of encouragement is that to any of them, to be working hard in their ridings trying to support legislation like Bill 10 and then he does not pick one of them to fill the cabinet post.

I am sure they are very disappointed and were looking forward with great anticipation to the

next round of debate on the future bill and resolving the final, all-encompassing aspects of automobile insurance in Ontario. I do not think it is going to happen before the election and we are going to have an election issue that the poor Minister of Financial Institutions will have to face and try to tell the people why he set up the OAIB, why they spent \$7 million and why the minister, who said he would not interfere, has interfered again with this wonderful piece of legislation. We are looking forward to the next round.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr M. C. Ray):** Are there any comments or questions?

**Mr Faubert:** We would not comment on that to save our lives.

**Mr Velshi:** The member for Durham East mentioned several times the question of \$7 million and that seems to be upsetting him. While I agree that \$7 million is a lot of money, I wonder what he thought of when his government spent \$500 million on Suncor.

That is not too bad, because they were talking about getting a window to the world of oil. All we got was a collective oil slick on the face of every Ontarian at that time. I wonder what he said to his own government when this Minaki Lodge fiasco took place. He will remember that. I think everyone remembers that. Fifty million dollars was spent to save a loan the government had given to Minaki Lodge of about \$25,000, and after spending \$50 million, there was no road to get to Minaki Lodge. We remember all that.

The only good thing about the member for Durham East is that he has tremendous style. I just wish there were a little more substance in what he said.

1650

**The Acting Speaker:** Before we continue I would like to remind honourable members of standing order 20, that comments and questions should be briefly on matters relevant to the matters before the House and that presumes the speech of the principal speaker who has just concluded.

**Mr Pollock:** I think I should have a chance to rebut the comments of the member for Don Mills (Mr Velshi), because after all he mentioned Minaki Lodge. I just want to point out to him that everything should not be spent in downtown Toronto. That is what I am going to point out; that is where a lot of the money is spent, around here, right in downtown Toronto. It is, "Forget the boondocks and spend it all right down here."

Interjections.

**The Acting Speaker:** Order, please. I have just tried to quietly remind honourable members of the standing order, so could you please keep your comments and questions relevant to the speech by the member for Durham East. Has the member for Hastings-Peterborough concluded?

**Mr Pollock:** Yes.

**The Acting Speaker:** The member for Durham East may have two minutes to respond.

**Mr Cureatz:** Two minutes. Will I ever be able to—I am very appreciative of the Speaker reminding us all about the standing orders. Of course, I can only say that it does not matter a hill of beans now, because according to this government it is going to be changing the standing orders from day to day. None of us are going to know what the standing orders are going to say. Just the government House leader is going to decide how he wants the rules according to the playing of the game here in the parliamentary process. He should know better. He knows the parliamentary process has the precedent of negotiations among all parties.

**Mr Haggerty:** Are you challenging the Speaker?

**Mr Cureatz:** I know the member is worried about one or two thoughts I have about Bill 10 in rebuttal. But I just want to say to my former seatmate, the member for Don Mills, with whom I had nothing but the most copacetic relationship, that I find it passing strange—the least I can do is use my own phrase; everybody else in my party seems to want to steal it—that he seems to know so much about northern Ontario and Minaki Lodge. I would venture to say he should have those kinds of discussions with one or two of his colleagues who are elected from northern Ontario and see what they have to say about Minaki Lodge.

Maybe he should just go up to Minaki and call a little public meeting and make the announcement that none of the money should have been spent in northern Ontario whatsoever and that we are going to close Minaki Lodge and we are going to take the money all the way down, back to Downsview or Don Mills where the money really belongs, not to mention the fact, and I have not had the chance of asking questions here yet about it, the greater Toronto area and where the government gets the legislative authority to tax a particular area that is not even, in the Municipal Act, a jurisdiction. What nonsense.

I say to the honourable minister, as I try to get back on to Bill 10—

**The Acting Speaker:** Thank you. Now, The member for Hamilton Mountain.

**Mr Charlton:** I do not rise with any degree of pleasure to discuss Bill 10, but I feel compelled to address a number of the issues that I think this bill misses, both in terms of the present situation and of what we know about the past that led up to the creation and introduction of this bill by the Minister of Financial Institutions.

The member for Don Mills got up and raised his comments about some excessive expenditures by the former government. Perhaps it is fair to say in relation to Bill 10 and what led up to Bill 10 that just because the former government made mistakes and spent some money foolishly, in his view, it does not mean his government should do the same. We like to try to learn from our lessons.

Bill 10 is the second attempt on the part of this government to deal with what is a very real problem out there in Ontario: excessive auto insurance rates, auto insurance rates that discriminate against a number of categories of drivers in this province.

To quote the former minister who introduced the original legislation, or at least the original cap that led up to the 1987 election and subsequently to Bill 2: "An immediate cap on all rates for motor vehicle insurance categories in Ontario was ordered today by Financial Institutions Minister Monte Kwinter as part of a comprehensive package of auto insurance legislation. Mr Kwinter said at a press conference, 'It is clear to the general public and it is clear to me the automobile insurance industry structure is arbitrary. While overall profitability increases the profitability of insurance companies, some consumers continue to pay unjustifiably higher premium rates with no recourse for their shabby treatment in the marketplace.'"

The minister went on to say that the government had deliberately given the insurance industry both the time and the opportunity to voluntarily improve market fairness, but the response has been inadequate and it continues to be inadequate.

When I said that I felt it was perhaps time we learned from the mistakes of the past instead of always continuing to smear someone else with those mistakes and pretending we are not making the same mistakes yet again, I have a couple of examples in mind that I think make perfect analogies of why the approach we are taking with Bill 10 is a mistake.

It was 20 years ago last year, and 20 years ago this year that we started a process to deal with another crisis in this province, a process that has

not yet been completed, a process that has not solved the problem it set out to solve and a process that has failed to serve those whom it was meant to serve: the taxpayers of Ontario. I am referring of course to the crisis in property taxation in Ontario, a crisis that was identified by the Smith commission in its report in 1968.

The former government proceeded in 1969 to implement legislation where the government took over the property taxation function for the entire province and put in place market value legislation, which as members are well aware has never been fully implemented. We have been through a continuing, ad nauseam series of amendments to that legislation for the last 20 years and we still have not come to terms with the problem. We have not resolved the crisis in terms of property taxation, both in terms of its fairness and in terms of its incidence, the high level of property taxes in Ontario. We still do not know how to come to a resolution of that problem.

I am very much afraid that what we are setting out on here, initially with Bill 2 and now with Bill 10, is a series of bad judgements, perhaps in an honest effort to deal with a real problem. But if it is an honest effort, it is also a misguided one. I know the minister is in a bad position, because we know what the opinions and positions of a number of his colleagues in the cabinet are—for that matter I would assume a number of his colleagues on the back benches as well—when it comes to the private sector and allowing the marketplace to operate.

We have heard those speeches here in this House. We understand them. We understand the problem the minister has and we also understand that the minister and the Premier have not totally ruled out an eventual move to public auto insurance or that possibility. What they have made clear, though, is that that move is the last choice on their list, that they will not make that move until they have exhausted all other potential possibilities in this debate.

**1700**

That is an approach and an attitude that does not serve the people of this province. It will be wonderful if three years from now this government finds itself in the position of having to implement public auto insurance, as a result of an election campaign and promises that will inevitably have to be made because we will not have resolved the current problem.

What will the interim do in terms of the moneys people had to pay last year and will have to pay this year, next year and the year after while we await the final solution. Last June, we had an

announcement of a 4.5 per cent cap increase for the auto insurance industry and everybody assumed that 4.5 per cent was for a whole year, because that is the way it was portrayed at the time.

It was comparable to the annual inflation rate and everybody thought: "Okay, they're not ready to move legislatively yet. They have put in place a cap for increases for this year that is consistent with what is going on with the rest of the economy. We will accept that for the moment. That is not bad."

But we only got halfway through that year and we more than doubled the ante because we put on another 4.5 per cent, but it was compounded so it more than doubled the ante in that year in which people expected that this government had acted in their best interests, a government that was not yet ready to proceed legislatively. It put a cap in place that was consistent with what was happening in the rest of the economy that without the benefit of extensive analysis seemed to be the fairest thing it could do at the time.

The auto insurance consumers in Ontario deserve better. More pointedly, they deserve a very clear understanding of where we are going on this issue and what it is they are going to get. Bill 10, the piece of legislation we have before us here, unfortunately does not give the auto insurance consumers in this province a clear understanding, either of where we are going or what they are going to get right now up front.

I always shudder when I see pieces of legislation that are set out like this one is set out, where we have on the one hand section 1 of the bill, which seems fairly precise, which seems to set out what the next year is about very clearly, where it says in subsection 1(1) that "'capped rate', means, in respect of a coverage under a contract of automobile insurance, the lesser of, (a) the premium that would have been charged for the coverage for comparable risks for a term commencing on the 17th day of April, 1989 had the premium been calculated using the rules, procedures and factors used by the insurer on that date, plus an amount equal to 7.6 per cent of that premium...."

The press reports what seems to be clear, a 7.6 per cent cap. That is a little bit higher than the inflation rate, but it is certainly better than the frightening numbers we heard as a result of the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board's increases. So everybody goes: "Whew. Thank God, they decided to intervene."

It is interesting when you have a member like the member for Durham East—I do not always

agree with the member for Durham East, but I certainly have come to respect his honesty in criticizing government, the official opposition and from time to time members of his own party.

You get to the point where you start to believe that in fact the game is just a game, when you see a clear section like the one I just referred to altered two pages further on by section 8. We get into section 8 and what the press reported to the people of Ontario is no longer the case perhaps, and in some instances it will not be the case. Section 8 says:

"(1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations,

"(a) permitting insurers to increase their capped rates in accordance with the regulations;

"(b) exempting insurers and the Facility Association from the requirements of this act in respect of such categories of automobile insurance, such coverages or such classes of risk exposure as may be set out in the regulations;

"(c) permitting the Facility Association to increase Facility Association rates in accordance with the regulations.

"(2) A regulation may be general or particular in its application."

What we have here is a piece of legislation that starts out to look like it is providing a clear, precise, defensible cap on insurance rates in Ontario that the consumers in this province can either accept or reject with at least an appearance of understanding what the government is offering them, but we get a clause like section 8 of this bill and it negates, or at least it potentially negates, everything set out in section 1 of the bill.

This government gives itself the authority—by regulation, not by consultation with this chamber, not even by consultation with the government back benches—this bill gives this government the authority to change every single insurance rate in Ontario over and above the 7.6 per cent that the people have been led to believe will be the cap for the next year.

As I said, I shudder every time I see a piece of legislation like this. We had an awkward period earlier this afternoon around the rule changes and members will recall the member for Durham East kept trying to refer to those rule changes in the early part of his debate. I think it is time this government understood what is happening here.

One of the complaints, in terms of the rule changes, was about excessive petitions. The government of this province, because of its vague, almost directionless approach to the real problems like auto insurance that are confronting the people of this province, has turned Ontario

into a petition mill. We have groups all across this province petitioning on any number of issues, some of which the government is dealing with, and dealing with badly in their view, and others of which the government is failing to deal with at all.

Because this government has turned Ontario into a petition mill, the House leader of the government party says it is the opposition's fault. I find that just a little bit hard to accept. I find it a little bit hard to accept that we have to be here debating Bill 10 this afternoon when in fact the need for Bill 10 was clearly set out for the Minister of Financial Institutions before the board ever made its final report.

I have to concur in this case with the member for Durham East. The minister was told clearly what would happen at that rate review board during the hearings on Bill 2.

**1710**

I cannot even recall now whether he was the minister yet or not, but that information should have been available to his staff, who advised him on the actual hearings themselves last fall and into January. His staff has not changed significantly since the hearings on Bill 2, but the evidence that was presented at the hearings on Bill 2 set out for us very clearly what would happen.

Whether or not the minister was the minister at the time Bill 2 was dealt with, he certainly was the minister in February, when members of this party and the third party stood in this House and told him precisely what the insurance companies were going to do with the board's report and the board's new rate structure.

We told him that the insurance companies were all going to go for the high end, and he stood here and said: "No, there is a competitive instinct out there. Some will go up, you are right. Others will go down, and people will have choices." But he finally had to bring in Bill 10 because that was not the reality out there in the marketplace.

Those of us who have been concerned about auto insurance for far too many years to even think about knew that and told him that. I guess, in that respect, I am trying to say to the minister that it is time to start listening to the consumers of this province. The consumers are the ones who need insurance protection, not the insurance companies. The consumers are the ones who have no choice; they have to have insurance when they drive an automobile in Ontario because of legislation that we passed here in this House. Again, I think that legislation predates the minister as well, since he has reminded us he

was elected only in 1981 and I think we passed that legislation in about 1978. But we have a mandatory situation, and if the minister has not figured out what is going on in the insurance industry, then I think it is high time he took the time to figure it out.

One of the reasons, for example, the administrative costs in terms of private automobile insurance in the province of Ontario are so high is that the insurance companies—

If he would take the time to talk privately, not ask a question at an insurance industry conference, to some of those people fairly high up in the insurance industry about why the administrative costs in auto insurance are so high, he would find out that the insurance companies shift administrative costs from other forms of insurance on to the back of auto insurance.

Why do they do that? Let's think about this logically for a minute. They do that simply because the auto insurance is mandatory; nothing else is.

If I do not like the rate I am asked to pay for my life insurance, I have the option to cancel it. If I do not like insuring my contents in my house for \$20,000 or \$50,000 because the rates are too high, I can reduce the amount I insure those contents for, or I can decide to take on the risk myself, because contents insurance on my house or, for that matter, fire insurance on my house is not mandatory.

But if I want to drive a vehicle or if I want to operate a business where I need a vehicle or vehicles, there are no choices. The vehicle drivers of Ontario are the captives of the insurance industry because it is mandatory, and they have plumped up the administrative costs on the automobile insurance side in order to keep rates in the nonmandatory insurance lower, that insurance that people might not buy if the rates were higher.

It is time the minister got off his behind and looked into some of those matters and understood full well what it is that is going on out there.

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** Time for you to sit down on that big—

**Mr Charlton:** The member for York Mills is not in his own seat, but he is choosing to interject anyway. I think perhaps he should understand that interjections are inappropriate at the best of times but certainly not appropriate in any way, shape or form when he is not in his own seat.

**The Deputy Speaker:** At all times.

**Miss Nicholas:** What rule is that? Brad, come on over here and keep me company.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Charlton:** The minister does not necessarily have to listen to this party and I can understand why he has had some difficulty listening to the members of this party on an ideological basis. Perhaps, though, it would behoove this minister to listen to some of the auto insurance consumers in the western provinces as part of this plan under Bill 10 to look at the alternatives. There are Liberals, Conservatives, Social Credit members and even a few communists, I would assume, in the western provinces. They are not all New Democrats.

A consumer survey out in those provinces, in terms of the operation of the public auto insurance systems, might give the minister a different view of that solution that he is ultimately going to have to look at at some point down the road. From my perspective, the sooner he takes the time to look at that alternative, the better off we will all be in Ontario. The longer he delays looking at that alternative the more Ontario consumers will have to pay out of their own pockets in the interim.

I suggested that it was time we started to learn from some of our mistakes in the past. It is clear with Bill 10 that the Minister of Financial Institutions does not know exactly where we are going in the next stage. The preamble to the bill says:

"Whereas, pending the completion of the review of alternative insurance products, it is desirable that legislation be enacted to control premiums, as provided in this act."

"Review of alternative insurance products" is about as clearly defined as the contents of some of the contaminated fuels we were having a ruckus about here in this House several weeks ago. It is time that this minister and this government took a firm hold on this issue, talked straight to the insurance consumers of this province about where it is they are taking them and what it is they are providing them with, instead of a piece of legislation which says a cap of 7.6 per cent, except that we can change the cap for any insured person out there, in any category, if for any reason we find a need to change it. What kind of legislative approach to assuring the public of anything is that? What does it really tell people?

Again, I go back to the point I raised earlier: the indecisive, unclear approach of this government on a whole range of issues has turned the province into what I like to refer to as a petition mill. The people of this province are upset on the one hand about any number of initiatives this

government is proceeding with, and on the other hand, about a number of areas of concern where the government is taking no action at all. Bill 10 is a perfect example of that.

Two months ago the people of this province thought they had a 7.6 per cent cap when the minister made his announcement. Bill 10 makes it absolutely clear that that is not what they have at all. What they have is maybe a 7.6 per cent cap, but from what we have seen of this government and the way it has bent like a willow to the pressures that are exerted behind the scenes, the regulations will be passed to start to alter rates almost immediately upon the passage of this bill. The people who thought their next billing was going to contain a 7.6 per cent increase are going to get 11.5 per cent, 14 per cent and God knows what else, because we do not know how much pressure is going to be applied.

But I would imagine that the pressure that would be applied under this legislation will take into account what the insurance companies thought they had under the board's report.

**1720**

As I suggested, in the preamble to Bill 10, "Whereas, pending the completion of a review of alternative insurance products..." I am suggesting to the minister that one of the alternatives that he should be seriously considering now, instead of after he has exhausted all the other alternatives, is the alternative of public auto insurance. In that vein there are a number of principles that I think the minister has to keep in mind as he goes through that process.

A driver-owned insurance plan will not discriminate according to age, sex, marital status or length of driving experience. Drivers will pay on the basis of individual driving record, type of vehicle and the use to which it is put. That is the first and most basic principle we have to deal with in a public auto insurance plan.

Insurance is a service that is required by all who drive. Driver-owned insurance will be provided on a nonprofit basis, unlike in a private corporation. All funds in excess of the amount required to pay the claims and run the business will be retained as reserves against future claims or used to reduce premium charges to clients. That is the second basic principle that has to be kept in mind in this review that will be occurring under Bill 10.

Third, driver-owned insurance will be administered publicly on a modified no-fault basis. That means two positive things for drivers: There will be a reduction in the amount of bureaucratic

red tape involved in settling claims and therefore will reduce administrative costs to insured drivers, and because deciding who was at fault and to what degree will not be the central activity of the insurer, claims will be settled more quickly and more easily. With better no-fault benefits than the current \$140-per-week maximum, there will be less reason to sue for financial loss; but for those who feel they can do better through the courts there will be no limitation on accident victims' rights to sue. This maintains existing legal rights and protects people who have special cases: for example, the athlete who bangs up a knee or a professional musician with permanent damage to his hand.

**Principle 4:** Driver-owned insurance will run without taxpayer subsidy on a break-even basis. Like all shared-risk situations, there will be good years and bad years. That is what the reserves and the contingency accounts are for. But just as extra funds will be set aside for those rainy days or used to reduce drivers' premium rates, if rates are too low to break even they will go up. No fancy footwork, no soft sell; driver-owned insurance will have to pay its way. As I suggest to the minister, that is a principle from which he should review the alternative. If he finds that not to be the case he can tell us; but he will not find that, unfortunately.

**Principle 5—**

**Hon Mr Elston:** You are really living in a different world.

**Mr Charlton:** I say to the minister that we have done a fair bit of checking ourselves.

Driver-owned insurance will be marketed through the present system of brokers and agents. In most cases, the person who sells one's insurance now will continue to sell it to one.

**Hon Mr Elston:** That is why the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr Kormos) was attacking the brokers' integrity yesterday.

**Mr Charlton:** The difference will be that the car insurance they sell will be Ontario driver-owned insurance.

**Mr Faubert:** All that competition.

**Mr Charlton:** All what competition?

**Mr Faubert:** Great. One supplier.

**Mr Charlton:** That is good, is it not?

**Mr Faubert:** Perfect. It is a great business.

**Mr Charlton:** Yes. Principle 6: The head office and the investment funds will be right here in Ontario, working in local communities and providing benefits for working people across the province, both through direct investment and by

reductions in premiums charged to Ontario drivers. One's investment will be put to work here at home, rather than being shipped out of the country as profits to foreign-based head offices currently are.

**Principle 7:** Driver-owned insurance will be tied to the vehicle registration in order to ensure that all drivers on the road have insurance coverage. The minister knows full well that that is one of the major issues in Ontario that he has yet to address. He has not yet taken the time to deal with the 100,000-plus drivers in Ontario who are out there driving without insurance, admittedly illegally, but driving without insurance none the less, leaving any number of people at serious risk.

We have not asked the minister to take our word on the public auto insurance alternative. We have had a lot to say about public auto insurance in this Legislature and we will continue to have a lot to say about it, but what we have asked the minister to do is to make that one of the alternatives that gets looked at under the suggestion in the preamble of Bill 10. The minister has told us what one of the alternatives he wants to look at is, but if we do not look at all of the potential alternatives, then we will not know whether we have picked the right answer at the end of the process.

That is the start of the process that I suggested earlier in my comments, a process that in the case of property tax reform has carried us through 20 years without any solution. The problem is still there. The problem gets worse with each year that passes, as councils and school boards are forced to raise mill rates. The unfairness gets exaggerated as mill rates go up, but in 20 years of piddling around with legislation because we are looking at the wrong solutions, we have not solved the problem.

We do not want to go down the same road with auto insurance in Ontario. We do not want to spend the next 20 years tinkering around with solutions that do not deal with the crisis of excessively high rates; that do not deal, as I suggested earlier, with the very dire circumstances that were expressed by the former minister. This is what the former minister said when he was announcing the program that we are now at stage 2 of:

"It is clear to the general public and it is clear to me the automobile insurance rate structure is arbitrary. While overall profitability increases, some consumers continue to pay unjustifiably higher premium rates with no recourse for their shabby treatment in the marketplace."

We have a real crisis in auto insurance rates. It is an arbitrary, unfair system that in many cases penalizes the wrong people. Bill 2 did not resolve that crisis. Bill 10 will not resolve that crisis either, unless the Minister of Financial Institutions is prepared to look seriously at the full range of alternatives that exist and do that in an honest and straightforward way.

1730

**Mrs Cunningham:** I suppose the whole issue of auto insurance and changes in the auto insurance plans for Ontario came to light during the election in September 1987, when the Premier advised the citizens of Ontario that he had a specific plan for improvement in or introduction of a new plan for auto insurance rates in Ontario.

Many citizens across this province eagerly awaited that new plan. Come the fall of 1988, and certainly just before Christmas of this past year, the press was speaking very negatively towards the lack of plans by the Premier with regard to auto insurance. I would just like to put on the record a few of these statements.

The Toronto Star, in an editorial on 8 December 1988, said "Peterson's plan for lower insurance rates looks more and more like a sham." We have certainly witnessed just that, in more recent weeks.

The Toronto Sun, in an editorial on 13 December, as people were eagerly trying to strike their own personal household budgets for a new year, said, "Too bad we can't get insurance against damage caused by the Peterson government. It is all an accident looking for a place to happen."

Quite frankly, I think many families think that, in fact, the accident has happened.

With regard to the Globe and Mail, looking again just after Christmas, in January, as families were really becoming very disturbed, it stated that the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board finished its hearings, and this is from the Globe: "It may be impolite to describe the process by which it proposes to set private car insurance premiums as a sham, but it is correct."

Obviously, in the eyes of the public and in the eyes of the press, the whole process leading up to this disaster was, quite frankly, a sham.

Going far north, just so we make certain it is not just Toronto we are listening to, the Sudbury Star, in an editorial of 7 December 1988, stated: "Having barged into the insurance business with a whole new set of controls, the government has substituted bureaucracy for the market forces of a free economy and severely disturbed the actuari-

al principles upon which rates were formerly based."

These are the statements made by the editorial in the Sudbury Star, which I am sure the minister reads regularly.

**Mr Cureatz:** They are hurting, Dianne.

**Mrs Cunningham:** I know.

Here we go: "So we have come from a government that made yet another promise that was not kept. Yes, we keep them all. Eventually, eventually, eventually."

I should say that with the introduction of Bill 10, the insurance companies in Ontario are incensed by the government's introduction of this bill. They had invested large amounts of time and money in preparation for a new risk-classification system. They were encouraged in this work by the government and, from time to time, by members of the government, only to have the government change its mind at the last moment. Insurance companies are eagerly awaiting results of the studies into alternative forms of car insurance.

We have just come from another committee where we are looking at a bill, Bill 124. I have not had a lot of experience in the House sitting on committees looking at the bills of this government, thank goodness, but I should say that we are looking there at a bill which is supposed to take care of a certain group of people in this province but which will have no effect whatsoever. It is a bill that is not necessary and it is not wanted. The replacement for that particular piece of legislation ought to be services, in that instance, to help families who are in very dire straits, very concerned parents who are going through a terrible process that affects family life, of separation, divorce, access and custody arrangements.

**Mr Fleet:** What about Bill 10? That sounds like Sam; he could not hit the topic if he tried.

**Mrs Cunningham:** The reference to that bill, Bill 124, has a lot to do with Bill 10, because once again we are looking at a bill that should have been unnecessary had the government kept its promise and created in fact for this province a specific plan through a proper process with proper public hearings.

I think, really, the government got just what it deserved, and that was some recommendations from the insurance board that were totally unacceptable to the public.

I would like to say that in the latest decision relating to automobile insurance, premium increases with this bill will be capped at 7.6 per cent for all policies written between 1 June and

the end of 1989. Incidentally, this number—and I am sure the minister will know this—was the benchmark rate hike approved by the automobile insurance board in a decision rendered on 13 February 1989.

**Mr Fleet:** So the board has done good work.

**Mrs Cunningham:** I think they did make an effort, with no help from this government, to solve a problem. In fact, what the government has done is interfere, and they are not very happy.

**Mr Fleet:** It's an independent board.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mrs Cunningham:** The member is quite right. They are independent and they were independent. I think the chairman, John Kruger, made a very important statement when he conceded that the government's decision with regard to Bill 10—and I will quote this so that no one is confused. Mr Kruger stated, "Some of our work goes by the board, so to speak." He hinted that he may consider resigning from the position of chairman of the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board if the government interferes with the work of the board again. Mr Kruger noted that the action "buys us time to bring in the kind of classification plan we would have liked to have done" in the first place.

**Mr Fleet:** Is this reusing the script?

**Mrs Cunningham:** I do not think this is anyone else's script, but if it is, it is because Mr Kruger has stated it many times and there are some people who listen. Maybe the government needs to be told it more than once. I am sure that the intentions of Mr Kruger were honest and sincere, and he probably thought he could have had something done if it had not been for the interference of this government.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada, I think, made a rather significant reaction to the minister's announcement. Jack Lyndon, president of the Insurance Bureau of Canada, argued that the cap was grossly inadequate for urban areas such as Toronto. He said, "You can only beat up an industry so long before they reconsider whether it's worth doing business." I would say he is particularly distressed by this action and this interference.

The insurance industry is not the only industry that is distressed and in fact somewhat depressed by the actions of this government. With many of the actions more recently, so are the municipalities and ultimately the taxpayers. With interference in their policies and passing the buck like one did in the budget, now not only are

municipalities not able to plan because they are not certain what this government will do from one day to the next with regard to taxes, responsibilities, Sunday shopping and Bill 113 being a perfect example, the more recent budget with lot levies, with lack of support for school boards financially being another example; quite frankly now even the public cannot plan the taxes that it is going to have to pay at the municipal level.

They cannot plan another very big payment that they have to plan into their accounting systems within their own homes, taxes being a very big one—personal income tax and municipal taxes—and now they have no idea of what is going to happen with insurance rates.

Safeco Insurance Companies' John McArthur, resident vice-president and manager Canada says, "We cannot continue business as normal on a 7.6 per cent increase and I do not think anybody else can either." He argued that "Mr Elston's political interference makes a mockery of the entire process."

I am not quite certain where this government is with regard to winning friends and influencing or even setting a good tone for management. Nobody likes them these days, obviously, except themselves. I would think this is a perfect example of mismanagement. To have to go to the polls, having spent this kind of money on the insurance board and trying to come to some kind of conclusion, what a total waste of the taxpayers' dollar. They should be ashamed of themselves.

1740

As recently as 18 April 1989, the *Toronto Sun* stated, "So much for the autonomy of the government's autonomous insurance board." Really, when you think of it, to ask a board to do a job and then interfere the way the government has taken away the responsibility from any citizen who wants to make a contribution to this government, when they are treated in this manner.

I would really be ashamed of myself. The government has asked a group to do some work, then it jumps in like this. Of course, if it had allowed it to do its work and if it had looked at the important studies in advance of any decision, we may have waited longer initially but we may have had better recommendations from the committee, or at least recommendations the public can live with.

I think whatever semblance of independence the board may have had crashed and burned with the announcement of the minister.

Bill Walker from the Toronto Star made another statement on 17 April. I think the Liberals should be concerned when somebody from the Star picks on them, as they call it:

"Yesterday's decision by Ontario's Liberal government to decapitate its independent insurance board and decide 1989 rate increases in a political back room should not surprise anyone." Is that not too bad? "The government, seeking to avoid the wrath of 6,000,000 drivers faced with soaring premiums, has said one thing and done another on the issue for two whole years. They have spent \$7 million on the auto insurance board to date. They have one of the greatest political embarrassments of the party's four-year reign to show for it. With two years left in the government's mandate"—I am not sure whether I would agree with that—"Premier David Peterson has to seriously consider a way to make people forget this dark day."

Well, the government certainly has its challenges. It is going to have to help the public forget Sunday shopping; it is going to have to help the people forget the auto insurance rates; certainly when it comes to the courts, the work I am responsible for, it is going to have to help the people forget it even had public hearings around the bill going on right now, Bill 124. It asks people to come before committees and it never listens to them. It writes down everything they say and it never listens to them.

I am beginning to wonder whether this is a democracy at all this government is heading. We just had a report on mediation that took three years to write, an absolutely wonderful report, and the Liberals on the committee which is meeting right now in the Amethyst Room stated that we will have to have two more years of public input on a report that took three years to write. This government has studied itself to death, absolutely. It cannot make a decision.

**Mr Furlong:** On the one hand, you're saying there's not enough consultation. Now we study too much. Make up your mind.

**Mrs Cunningham:** I did not say there was not enough, I said it was not appropriate, and there is a difference. Serious consultation is what is needed by this government and the public needs to know it has been listened to. I really would expect that this issue, along with Sunday shopping, will be the main reasons most of you can just kiss your seats goodbye in the next election. Most of us are wondering what the third one will be.

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**Mrs Cunningham:** It is most difficult to—  
Interjection.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. One member at a time and the member will address her remarks through the Speaker.

**Mrs Cunningham:** Do you want me to be first or would you like the member for Durham-York?  
Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. Only the member for London North has the floor.

**Mrs Cunningham:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. It does remind me of question period because the member for Durham-York talks all the time then, too. It is hard to distinguish between one and the other.

At the centre of this current controversy with auto insurance in Ontario is the risk classification system. I thought the government was really interested in looking at those kinds of alternatives. I would have expected that it would have looked at those alternatives in a very serious way before it came forth with its recommendations.

I am hoping right now that the two committees that are having a look at the alternatives are having a look with the support of the government. I hope they have been given some kind of direction; that they will be listened to; that they are asking for public input; that they are not looking for public input in ads that will be put in the paper the day before the hearings, and that it is a very serious effort made by this government to look at that classification system.

It may be an alternative we should be buying into. What we really need to do is have serious, open debate around any recommendations that will be put before this House or a committee of this House, with serious public input.

I do not think anybody who is a member of this government or a member of this Legislative Assembly should be seriously buying into anything without all of us having an opportunity to look at those alternatives that I hope will be put forth in quick time by the committees.

During the debates on Bill 2, the committee heard from one industry witness after another, who advised the government not to tamper with the existing system of risk classification. Robert McCormick was one of them. He stated this: "We feel the proposed classification system is going to create serious premium dislocation problems and suggest more study is needed before it is introduced." I hope the government speaks to Mr McCormick and asks him for some

very specific advice on the risk classification system that he would support.

**Hon Mr Elston:** That is Bill 2; this is Bill 10.

**Mrs Cunningham:** That is fine. They are still talking about a risk classification system, correct? As a result of Bill 10, I am expecting the government is looking at some alternatives. I would hope that the risk classification system is one of them. Insurance companies are eagerly awaiting results of the studies into alternative forms of car insurance as a result of Bill 10. So I am not speaking to Bill 2; I am speaking to Bill 10. I am speaking to what is happening right now out there, and I would hope there are going to be some public hearings around this.

With regard to the cost to the insurance industry to date, remember that since we have already wasted \$7 million on hearings, the public are the people who have to pick this up. These are real costs to the public. Most of us are concerned with insurance because of court costs and legal fees; those are reasons for increased rates in insurance. But we can be sure that during the next election the public will be reminding us of the real costs of their increased premiums for car insurance. A very large part of that will be the money that has been wasted already on looking for a new plan for automobile insurance. I think it is terrible that the government is not somewhat more humble about spending that \$7 million.

**Mr South:** It's hard to be humble when you're perfect.

**Mrs Cunningham:** The statement that was just made by one of the members is indicative of the attitude of this government. None of us is perfect, and I would expect that as we look for alternatives we very seriously talk openly and honestly with each other about them. They probably should be in some committee.

1750

The Co-operators General Insurance Co, as we talk about costs to the insurance industry and ultimately to us, the taxpayers, has already spent more than \$2 million making changes necessary to accommodate the new plan that was recommended. The company was two weeks away from mailing out the first premium notices containing rate increases calculated on the new plan.

Safeco Insurance Companies have spent more than \$1.5 million on similar computer changes. The automobile insurance industry in Ontario lost \$423 million in after-investment income on premium income of \$3.5 billion in 1988, according to its figures. The rate cap puts

pressure on those companies which had failed to align themselves properly in the marketplace before the government instituted a freeze on rates in April 1987.

This is a business that is important to the economy of this province. It is a service that the public relies on, and there are people today wondering what could possibly happen next. A 7.6 per cent rate hike translates into roughly \$55 million of additional 1989 premium income for the industry, and it is telling us it cannot survive.

I would like to close my remarks by reminding the government about the principle that really is at stake right here, and that is government interference. It has been going on since 1987 in almost all aspects. On 14 December 1988, to be specific, Premium Peterson—that sounds good, does it not?—the Premier asked the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board to extend public hearings into the new year in response to criticism that the hearings were not in-depth enough. That particular piece of interference was probably well received by the public, for a change.

On the other hand, would you not think that if you were going to have hearings, you would hold them at times the public could be there, over a period of time, so that people could think about the impact of their statements and take time to prepare? The changes would not be made on a day-to-day basis, so if you are making a presentation on a Monday, you do not have to make a totally different one a week later because of this kind of interference.

On 9 February, just two months later, just days before Ontario drivers were to learn what premium increases they would be made to pay for the remainder of 1989, the minister instructed the insurance board to study possible no-fault car insurance options.

**Mr Cureatz:** Interventionist.

**Mrs Cunningham:** Interventionist, possibly, because the whole process had not been well thought out in the beginning. One has to have a time frame so that the public can respond and have input. Second, if that was an option, then anybody, laymen in the communities, knew that was an option. Right across Canada and into the United States it has been an option, certainly, that should have been looked at very seriously. The timing on that one was simply irresponsible, because it should have been thought out in the beginning.

On 15 February, a week later, the Premier stepped in and said his government was considering stepping in to help seniors hit hard by rising

insurance rates. As a person who has not been too experienced in this House, and I admit that, I have to say that one wonders if the whole House and the policies of this government are driven by common sense and caring, with the responsibility that is incurred, or whether the government is responding more to the political ramifications of decisions that affect the public. I think that is exactly what they are talking about.

If I were in this government, I would think very seriously about the ramifications of inappropriate input and not thinking through what it really wants and the total lack of leadership around this issue.

What is to come? The government is finally attempting to get the horse in front of the cart and every sign points to a move to no-fault auto insurance. I am absolutely certain that is what it is probably going to come up with.

**Mr Cureatz:** No, we do not know yet.

**Mrs Cunningham:** Oh, I do not know.

**Mr Cureatz:** That is the next bill.

**Mrs Cunningham:** Well, that is the next bill, as my colleague says. I would suggest that for now, for the public who even have any confidence or even care any more about what is going to happen—let's face it: the government is losing the respect and confidence of the public. Sometimes that is a very dangerous thing, especially for young people, because they do not care enough to be here to give us their input and concerns any more. That is extremely dangerous.

Right now, the first study that began on 17 April will last until 25 May, as was the time frame. I am not certain where the results of that study are. The next one, the second study, is to be carried out in the fall of this year. After that, the insurance board will meet yet again to set rates that should be in effect as of 1 January 1990. We will be watching that process very carefully, hoping that it is a democratic and responsible one, where the government will be thoughtfully thinking out any alternatives and plans for any new automobile insurance plan for the province.

Its actions so far since 1987 have been a tremendous source of embarrassment, I am sure, to themselves, and I wish them the very best of luck. Do you know why I say that, Mr Speaker? I think if they do not do a good job on this one, only the taxpayers and the public will suffer and that is too bad for this province. Even the Liberals should try very hard to come up with a good plan for automobile insurance and keep their election promise of 1987. I am not sure they will be forgiven for their record so far, but I am a person who cares too much about families and

children to wish them anything but the best in their deliberations.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Questions and comments on the member's statement? If not, do other members wish to participate? If not, would the minister wish to wind up?

**Hon Mr Elston:** I would like to make a couple of comments, and I think that is about all the time I have. But I would like to indicate my surprise with the member for Durham East who was so eloquently putting forth his position and indicating quite clearly that the member for Leeds-Grenville was doing nothing but being an apologist for the insurance industry. That was in fact a very interesting piece of information.

I was also interested, of course, in several other of the presentations, but I can tell the members who spoke that a good number of the issues they raised in this debate were set out by me as belonging to another discussion, which really surrounds the whole issue of product reform, about which the government has put forth its position in a very thorough and clear way.

We have indicated that the report of the board would be made to us in due course after it terminated its hearings 25 May. It is on schedule in that regard. I can see people are a little bit uneasy with the fact that this minister and this government have put their plan in place and are moving with dispatch to implement it in a very thorough and consistent manner.

We are after one thing. We are after the protection of the consumer. We have decided that with this rate-capping bill at 7.6 per cent, the consumers will be best served so that they can have affordable insurance, so that they can have time when they can reflect on product reform in a way that will provide for them a confidence in the comfort level of a thoroughness of consideration by the government that will allow us to move forward with some degree of certainty, and for them, an understanding that the consumers are being protected, which of course is our primary concern.

**Mr Cureatz:** What about the insurance companies spending money.

**Hon Mr Elston:** These people like to interject and they do not like to hear what the real world is. We have had to listen for a long time about all of their information but I can tell you, Mr Speaker, we are going to move forward with a plan to deal with the issues of insurance rates and affordability. That is what has been laid out in front of them. This bill is but one aspect of that plan and we are moving forward with dispatch and certainty.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** No, you had a plan to lower the rates.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Elston:** I can tell the members that as they rant and rave in front of the public, they cannot be believed because we are doing as we had said we would.

I suggest the public is happy with the implementation of the 7.6 per cent cap. We wish to proceed with it in a way that is certain and I elicit the support of all the people here in the House so they can show that they support the consumers' needs for affordable insurance. Let them vote against the fact of a 7.6 per cent increase and explain why they want something much different than that.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Mr Elston has moved second reading of Bill 10. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

There is an agreement to have this vote stacked at 5:45 pm Monday. Agreed?

Agreed to.

Vote stacked.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Hon Mr Conway:** Pursuant to standing order 13, I would like to indicate the business of this House for the coming week.

On Monday, 12 June, as has just been agreed, we will take the stacked vote on the second reading of Bill 10 at 5:45 pm. Next week, as time permits, we will deal with the following bills: Bill 211, the Rental Housing Protection Act; Bill 204, the Power Corporation Amendment Act; as well as a variety of justice bills: Bill 93, the Justices of the Peace Act; Bill 189, the Provincial Offences and Highway Traffic Amendment Act; Bill 200, An Act to confirm a certain agreement between the Governments of Canada and Ontario, and further, as time permits, Bill 2 and Bill 3, having to do with the court reform legislation.

On the morning of Thursday, we will consider private members' public business standing in the names of Mr Ballinger and Miss Martel.

The House adjourned at 1802.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

## GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION

**53 Mr McLean:** Would the Minister of Correctional Services provide the cost for translating the Corrections in Ontario series of publications into Chinese, the cost for printing this material, the name of the company that received the printing contract and state where this material has been distributed in Ontario? [Tabled 1 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** The total cost of translating the Corrections in Ontario series into Chinese was \$8,700. The printing of the Chinese version was awarded to St Joseph Printing Ltd in Toronto, at a cost of \$14,606.77.

Attached is a summary of where this material has been distributed.

**54 Mr McLean:** Would the Minister of Correctional Services provide the cost for translating the Corrections in Ontario series of publications into Vietnamese, the cost for printing this material, the name of the company that received the printing contract and state where this material has been distributed in Ontario? [Tabled 1 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** The total cost of translating the Corrections in Ontario series into Vietnamese was \$6,000. The printing of the Vietnamese version was awarded to St Joseph Printing Ltd in Toronto, at a cost of \$12,162.03.

Attached is a summary of where this material has been distributed.

**55 Mr McLean:** Would the Minister of Correctional Services provide the cost for translating the Corrections in Ontario series of publications into Spanish, the cost for printing this material, the name of the company that received the printing contract and state where this material has been distributed in Ontario? [Tabled 1 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** The total cost of translating the Corrections in Ontario series into Spanish was \$4,500. The printing of the Spanish version was awarded to St Joseph Printing Ltd in Toronto, at a cost of \$12,162.03.

Attached is a summary of where this material has been distributed.

**56 Mr McLean:** Would the Minister of Correctional Services provide the cost for translating the Corrections in Ontario series of publications into Italian, the cost for printing this material, the name of the company that received the printing contract and state where this material

has been distributed in Ontario? [Tabled 1 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** The total cost of translating the Corrections in Ontario series into Italian was \$4,500. The printing of the Italian version was awarded to St Joseph Printing Ltd in Toronto, at a cost of \$12,162.03.

Attached is a summary of where this material has been distributed.

**57 Mr McLean:** Would the Minister of Correctional Services provide the cost for translating the Corrections in Ontario series of publications into Portuguese, the cost for printing this material, the name of the company that received the printing contract and state where this material has been distributed in Ontario? [Tabled 1 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** The total cost of translating the Corrections in Ontario series into Portuguese was \$4,500. The printing of the Portuguese version was awarded to St Joseph Printing Ltd in Toronto, at a cost of \$12,162.03.

Attached is a summary of where this material has been distributed.

**58 Mr McLean:** Would the Minister of Correctional Services provide the cost for translating the Corrections in Ontario series of publications into Polish, the cost for printing this material, the name of the company that received the printing contract and state where this material has been distributed in Ontario? [Tabled 1 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** The total cost of translating the Corrections in Ontario series into Polish was \$4,500. The printing of the Polish version was awarded to St Joseph Printing Ltd in Toronto, at a cost of \$12,162.03.

Attached is a summary of where this material has been distributed.

**59 Mr McLean:** Would the Minister of Correctional Services provide the cost for translating the Corrections in Ontario series of publications into Hindi, the cost for printing this material, the name of the company that received the printing contract and state where this material has been distributed in Ontario? [Tabled 1 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** The total cost of translating the Corrections in Ontario series into Hindi was \$7,160. The printing of the Hindi version was awarded to St Joseph Printing Ltd in Toronto, at a cost of \$12,162.03.

Attached is a summary of where this material has been distributed.

**60 Mr McLean:** Would the Minister of Correctional Services provide the cost for translating the Corrections in Ontario series of publications into Greek, the cost for printing this material, the name of the company that received the printing contract and state where this material

has been distributed in Ontario? [Tabled 1 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** The total cost of translating the Corrections in Ontario series into Greek was \$7,000. The printing of the Greek version was awarded to St Joseph Printing Ltd in Toronto, at a cost of \$12,162.03.

Attached is a summary of where this material has been distributed.

**Ministry of Correctional Services  
Communications branch  
Multilingual brochure distribution plan**

**I LEGISLATURE:**

Two sets will be sent to all MPPs with the compliments of David Ramsay 260 sets

**II MINISTRY OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:**

1. Ministry: minister;  
deputy minister;  
assistant deputy ministers;  
executive co-ordinators;  
chair and vice-chairmen, Ontario Board of Parole;  
regional directors;  
branch directors;  
superintendents;  
area managers;  
regional training advisers 254 sets

\*Distribution to ministry staff completed July 1988 (two sets each).

2. Send four sets to major ministry agencies and contract holders, 13 in all, including:  
John Howard Society;  
Elizabeth Fry;  
Salvation Army;  
Community Service Order Association of Ontario;  
Church Council on Justice and Corrections 52 sets

\*Agencies can return to us with specific requests for their regional offices.

**III GOVERNMENT:**

1. Ministry of Citizenship:  
Send two sets to the following outlets, except for Ontario Welcome House,  
with each of the five houses to receive 25 sets each.  
Citizenship Development Branch;  
Ontario Welcome House;  
Race Relations Division;  
Ontario Human Rights Commission 131 sets

2. Ministry of Culture and Communications: all Metro Toronto library boards 40 sets

3. Ministry of Community and Social Services: probation and youth services  
Send 50 sets to the 15 field offices covering regions from Hamilton to Oshawa.  
Comsoc will select only those brochures which meet their needs. The Comsoc  
communications branch will distribute publications internally and to their regional  
service offices and agencies. 750 sets

4. Ministry of the Attorney General: court interpretation services.	50 sets
5. Ministry of the Solicitor General.	1,000 sets
6. Ministry of Government Services: publication warehouse.	200 sets
7. The Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship.	120 sets
<b>IV COUNCIL OF COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORS:</b>	
Distribute two copies to the 24 ministries and interested council members.	50 sets
<b>V MULTICULTURAL GROUPS:</b>	
1. Selected ethnocultural umbrella organizations:	
Ontario Multicultural Association;	
Chinese Canadian National Council;	
Vietnamese Association of Toronto;	
Italian Canadian Congress;	
Portuguese Interagency Network and others.	40 sets
2. Metro Toronto ethnocultural outlets:	
Community and information centres	76 sets
General immigrant services	144 sets
Individual ethnic organizations	212 sets
*Umbrella organizations may be able to distribute brochures to the individual outlets belonging to their particular cultural group.	
<b>VI ETHNIC MEDIA:</b>	
Communications is also planning to advertise in the ethnic press through <i>Ethnic Ad Inc.</i> Clip-out coupons in community newspapers will allow readers to mail in requests to the communications branch.	
<b>VII Other targeted distribution points:</b>	
Metro Toronto Police, ethnic relations unit	10 sets
Council on Race Relations and Policing	10 sets
Boards of education, race relations committees	12 sets
University languages departments	50 sets
Correctional Service of Canada	10 sets

#### CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

**62 Mr Pollock:** Would the Minister of Natural Resources provide the House with a complete list of the names and addresses of any person who has made an appeal to the minister under the Conservation Authorities Act? [Originally tabled 1 February 1989. Tabled 4 May 1989]

**64 Mr Pollock:** Would the Minister of Natural Resources provide the House with a list of the appeals and decisions made to and by, the mining lands commissioner under the Conservation

Authorities Act? [Originally tabled 1 February 1989. Tabled 4 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** As requested in questions 62 and 64, the attached chart contains the names of persons appealing under the Conservation Authorities Act and the current status of the decisions made in respect of those appeals. We have not included their addresses because we felt that to do so might constitute an invasion of privacy under the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

**Names of persons appealing to the Minister of Natural Resources under the  
Conservation Authorities Act and status of appeal From 1 January 1988 to 4 May 1989**

Names	Disposition of Appeal		Adjourned <i>sine die</i>	Settled or Withdrawn	Hearing Held- Decision Pending	Set Down- Hearing Pending	Not Set Down
	Allowed/ Dismissed	Adjourned on consent					
Margarita Flores (Landry)					X		
Sarah M. Thomson	X						
Michael Krascik			X				
David Graham			X				
John Dinevski							X
Margaret Kale					X		
William H. Almas					X		
Yorkville North Development Ltd						X	
Suzanne and Kevin Berry						X	
Pearl Ling and Temvak Holdings Ltd					X		
Stewart Clutton and Florita Hunt					X		
Mr and Mrs Allan K. Earl	X						
Kenneth Davies					X		
Marshall and Lisa Hogan	X						
Abie and Paul Antony				X			
Castro Antunes							X
Paul E. Ross	X						
Vito Ditta	X						
Robert Thompson	X						
Udo Bauer		X					
Mario Faus	X						
Freure Homes Ltd				X			
John Anga	X						
Jack Christie et al	X						
Bramalea Ltd				X			
Richard Craig	X						
Mr and Mrs P. Doll	X						
Samir Messieha	X						
Mary Holmes				X			
Michael Mitchell							X
Gail McIntyre			X				
Richard S. Nowlan				X			
Roger Epworth	X						
Linda Saunders					X		
Dee White					X		
Nella Soufan					X		
Charles Penstone			X				
Jack and Evelyn Vandenberg							X

**63 Mr Pollock:** Would the Minister of Natural Resources provide the House with an updated list of decisions and a copy of these decisions made under the Conservation Authorities Act? [Originally tabled 1 February 1989. Tabled 4 May 1989]

**65 Mr Pollock:** Would the Minister of Natural Resources provide the House with a list of all upcoming hearings to be held under the Conservation Authorities Act? [Originally tabled 1 February 1989. Tabled 4 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** The information requested in these questions is not kept within the Ministry of Natural Resources. A review of the data provided in the Conservation Statistical Report indicates that in 1986 alone there were approximately 3,800 applications made under subsection 28(1) of the Conservation Authorities Act. Many of these applications included maps, survey documents, plans of subdivision and other pertinent background materials.

In order to provide the information requested in these two questions, the undertaking would have to be co-ordinated through the Association of Conservation Authorities of Ontario. The ACAO would have to ask for this information from each conservation authority having subsection 28(1) regulations in place. The process of information search, reproduction and collection of such information would be extremely onerous for all parties involved. In view of the fact that it would prove to be extremely expensive and time consuming for the individual conservation authorities to provide the information requested, I must advise that the requests contained within questions 63 and 65 cannot be accommodated.

#### WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

**79 Mr McCague:** Will the Minister of Municipal Affairs provide an organization chart for the waterfront development office in his ministry? [Tabled 4 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Eakins:** The waterfront development office is essentially a small secretariat, whose organization consists of four positions: special adviser to the Premier, executive assistant to the special adviser, senior secretary and junior planner.

The office relies upon and uses extensively the staff resources and expertise of many ministries to carry out its mandate.

**80 Mr McCague:** Will the Minister of Municipal Affairs provide a copy of the corporate strategic plan for the waterfront development office in his ministry? [Tabled 4 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Eakins:** The waterfront development office has a simple strategic plan, which is to carry out its mandate effectively. The mandate is to encourage the responsible development of our waterfront areas, with particular emphasis on the greater Toronto waterfront, to ensure that those assets are attractively developed and remain accessible to all.

The key functions of the waterfront development office involve co-ordination of the planning, priority-setting and programs which impact upon waterfront development to produce a coherent overall provincial strategy; co-operation with, and support of, the Crombie Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront; ensuring that private development proceeds in a way which incorporates and satisfies long-term public objectives.

#### HEALTH SERVICES

**90 Mr Eves:** Would the Minister of Health explain what she means by "reasonable access to quality care for everyone" as it is used in the executive summary of the discussion paper entitled *Deciding the Future of Our Health Care*, which was released on 10 April 1989? [Tabled 4 May 1989]

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** Reasonable access to quality health care is the premise on which the Ministry of Health is now operating. "Reasonable access" refers to access to insured services without financial barriers, as close to home as possible, given the regional network of services and the geographic realities of the province of Ontario. "Quality care" refers to insured services which can be proven effective in meeting the needs of individuals. "For everyone" refers to the government's goal of equity of access, where services are provided to meet special needs: for the poor, for those with language, cultural and geographic barriers.

**91 Mr Eves:** Would the Minister of Health explain the difference between universal access to quality health care and reasonable access to quality health care? [Tabled 4 May 1989]

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** Both the terms "reasonable" and "universal" are found in the Canada Health Act.

Universality is a fundamental principle of health insurance in Canada. In conformity with the Canada Health Act, Ontario entitles 100 per cent of its residents to insured health services through enrolment in the Ontario health insurance plan. No resident will be refused insured services because of financial difficulties.

By virtue of section 12, "the health insurance plan of a province must provide for insured health services on uniform terms and conditions and reasonable access by the insured health services unprecedented or unimpeded, either directly or indirectly, by charges or other means."

In Ontario, all insured persons are entitled to all insured hospital and medical services to which federal contributions relate. As well, the government of Ontario provides additional coverage, not cost-shared by the federal government, through programs such as the Ontario drug benefit plan, the assistive devices program and ambulance services.

#### FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**106 Mr Runciman:** Will the Minister of Transportation provide the details of plans to install bilingual (French/English) highway signs in the province, including number and type of signs, location and approximate cost of program? [Tabled 8 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Fulton:** Bilingual signs (English/French) will be installed on provincial highways located in designated areas as defined by the French Language Services Act, 1986. Since 1977, the Ministry of Transportation has moved towards bilingual signing in designated areas to satisfy local needs. As a result of these efforts, a large number of signs are currently bilingual in designated areas. Approximately 55,000 signs are located in designated areas of which approximately 11,000 (20 per cent) signs require alterations or changes in order to comply with the French Language Services Act, 1986. The approximate cost to implement these changes under a routine replacement program is estimated at \$100,000 per year.

**107 Mr Runciman:** Will the Minister of Tourism and Recreation provide cost estimates for the Ontario Science Centre, Science Centre North and Ontario Place's total compliance with the requirements of Bill 8, the French Language Services Act? [Tabled 8 May 1989]

**Hon Mr O'Neil:** Cost estimate is as follows: Ontario Place, \$1,140,400.

The cost estimates for Ontario Science Centre and Science North are presented in the attached letter from the Minister of Culture and Communications, the Honourable Lily Oddie Munro.

**Hon Ms. Oddie Munro:** Cost estimates are as follows: Ontario Science Centre, \$1,429,400; Science North, \$261,400.

#### CASE OF CARLA CREARY

**110 Mr Runciman:** Will the Attorney General advise whether or not he believes the Crown Attorney in the inquest into the death of Carla Creary acted properly in refusing to permit witnesses to offer their views on the source of cocaine that caused Miss Creary's death? [Tabled 8 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Scott:** Mr Runciman has assumed incorrectly that the crown counsel assisting the coroner in a recent inquest into the death of Carla Creary prevented substantive and relevant evidence from being introduced into the record as to who may have supplied Ms Creary with the cocaine she injected on the day of her death.

The coroner, like a judge in a criminal trial, has the exclusive jurisdiction to determine whether any question proposed to be put to a witness is relevant and admissible. Accordingly, crown counsel cannot prevent a question which is otherwise relevant and admissible from being put to a witness. At the inquest, crown counsel in fact asked Marshall Sack, who was with Ms Creary at the time of her death in the hotel, whether he had supplied her with any cocaine that day. Mr Sack testified under oath that he did not provide her with any cocaine.

With regard to any other evidence involving the issue as to who may have supplied the cocaine to Ms Creary, the coroner ruled that no other questions could be put to any other witness because he was not satisfied that the witnesses' answers would meet any minimum legal test of reliability. The coroner made his decision only after hearing representations in his office from any counsel of standing at the inquest with regard to the proposed questions and the likely answers.

**111 Mr Runciman:** Will the Attorney General advise whether or not he believes the city of Toronto police carried out a thorough and proper investigation into the death of Carla Creary and that, throughout the course of the investigation, acted in a totally appropriate manner? [Tabled 8 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Scott:** With regard to the quality and correctness of the police investigation into the death of Ms Creary, I should emphasize that as Attorney General for the province of Ontario, the execution of police law enforcement responsibilities does not specifically fall under the jurisdiction of my ministry. However, to the extent that the police investigation was one of the major areas of evidence at the inquest, I can comment as follows.

The investigating police officers attending at the hotel, the scene of Ms Creary's death, were not aware at that time that Ms Creary had recently ingested cocaine and that her death from asphyxiation may have been due to an overdose. Because the investigating police officers did not believe on reasonable and probable belief that a possible criminal act had occurred, the police did not initially investigate the death in terms of preparation for possible Criminal Code charges but rather an investigation for purposes of the coroner and a possible inquest.

The police officers who attended initially at the scene were called as witnesses at the inquest and examined by crown counsel and cross-examined by any counsel of standing who wished to do so. I am not aware of any criticism by the coroner during the inquest with regard to the police investigation. Also, none of the recommendations of the coroner jurors' verdict was critical of the conduct of the police.

#### VARITY CORP

**112 Mr Morin-Strom:** Will the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, further to the financial restructuring of Massey-Ferguson/Varity Corp, indicate what shares and/or warrants it has sold since its 1986 acquisition of common and preferred shares and warrants, and

the prices received for such holdings, the shares and/or warrants it still holds, and their current market values? Tabled 8 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Kwinter:** 1. Varity securities sold by Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology since 1986 restructuring: 4,800,000 common share purchase warrants sold on 12 January 1988 for net proceeds of \$2,096,395.

2. Varity securities now held by Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology with current market value: 2,700,000 common shares. Market value as at 10 May 1989 was \$8,370,000; 750,000 class II preferred shares. These shares are not publicly traded. If converted to common shares (which trade in Toronto and New York) the market value of the preferred shares would be \$7,750,000 as at 10 May 1989.

#### LIFELINES PROGRAM

**127 Mrs Marland:** Will the Minister of the Environment provide a list of municipalities receiving grants under the LifeLines program since the beginning of the program in June 1987 to present, giving name of municipality, amount of grant, type of project, LifeLines subprogram name, and total cost of project. [Tabled 8 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Bradley:** Please refer to the following:

Municipality	Description	Gross cost	Project Listing (in millions)				expd YTD
			Per cent eligible	Grant	Prior years	89-90 alloc	
Pollution control planning study							
Belleville, C	PCP feasibility study	0.010		0.010	0.010		
Durham, RM	Poll cont plan study	0.079		0.040	0.036	0.004	
Hamilton-Wentworth, RM	Real time control	0.500		0.250	0.158	0.067	
Hamilton-Wentworth, RM	Poll cont plan study	0.300		0.150	0.067	0.068	
Kingston, C	PCP feasibility study	0.020		0.020	0.018	0.002	
Kingston, C	Poll cont plan study	0.784		0.392	0.159	0.102	
London, C	PCP feasibility study	0.018		0.018	0.018		
London, C	Poll cont plan study	0.450		0.225	0.023	0.129	
New Liskeard, T	PCP feasibility study	0.020		0.020	0.018	0.002	
Niagara, RM (Fort Erie)	Poll cont plan study	0.300		0.150	0.023	0.050	
Niagara, RM (7 mun)	PCP feasibility study	0.060		0.060	0.047	0.013	
North Bay, C	PCP feasibility study	0.015		0.015	0.014	0.001	
North Bay, C	Poll cont plan study	0.200		0.108	0.045	0.013	
Sarnia, C	Poll cont plan study	0.120		0.060	0.054	0.006	
Sudbury, RM (Chelmsford)	Poll cont plan study	0.140		0.070	0.009	0.061	
Sudbury, RM (Onaping)	Poll cont plan study	0.030		0.015	0.014	0.001	
Windsor, C	Poll cont plan study	0.140		0.070	0.063	0.007	

Municipality	Description	Gross cost	Project Listing (in millions)				expd YTD
			Per cent eligible	Grant	Prior years	89-90 alloc	
Needs study							
Alexandria, T	Wat dist sys study	0.048		0.032		0.029	
Amherstburg, T	Wat dist sys study	0.030		0.015		0.013	
Anderson, Twp	Sew coll sys study	0.025		0.014		0.012	

Municipality	Description	Gross cost	Project Listing (in millions)				expd YTD
			Per cent eligible	Grant	Prior years	89-90 alloc	
Needs study—(continued)							
Armstrong, T	Sew coll sys study	0.012		0.010	0.009	0.001	
Arnprior, T	Sew coll sys study	0.045		0.022	0.020	0.002	
Arthur, V	Wat dist sys study	0.008		0.006	0.005	0.001	
Atikokan, Twp	Sew coll sys study	0.050		0.029		0.026	
Atikokan, Twp	Wat dist sys study	0.040		0.023		0.021	
Aurora, T	Sew coll sys study	0.018		0.095		0.028	
Aurora, T	Wat dist sys study	0.040		0.020	0.005	0.006	
Barrie, C	Sew coll sys study	0.300		0.150		0.075	
Barrie, C	Wat dist sys study	0.250		0.125		0.056	
Bath, V	Sew coll sys study	0.021		0.018	0.005	0.013	
Bath, V	Wat dist sys study	0.020		0.017	0.005	0.012	
Beeton, T	Wat dist sys study	0.018		0.014	0.013	0.001	
Belleville, C	Sew coll sys study	0.060		0.030	0.027	0.003	
Bicroft, Twp (Cardiff)	Sew coll sys study	0.026		0.022	0.010	0.012	
Bicroft, Twp (Cardiff)	Wat dist sys study	0.010		0.008	0.007	0.001	
Blenheim, T	Sew coll sys study	0.230		0.137	0.123	0.014	
Blenheim, T	Wat dist sys study	0.018		0.011	0.009	0.002	
*Brantford, C	Sew coll sys study	0.650		0.325		0.081	
*Brantford, C	Wat dist sys study	0.130		0.065	0.030	0.035	
Brighton, T	Sew coll sys study	0.060		0.039		0.035	
Brockville, C	Wat dist sys study	0.120		0.060	0.017	0.010	
Burk's Falls, V	Wat dist sys study	0.013		0.011		0.010	
Cache Bay, T	Wat dist sys study	0.005		0.004		0.004	
Caldwell, Twp (Verner)	Sew coll sys study	0.010		0.008		0.007	
Cambridge, C	Sew coll sys study	0.050		0.025		0.022	
Cambridge, C	Sew coll sys study	0.570		0.285		0.085	
Cambridge, C	Wat dist sys study	0.025		0.013		0.012	
Cambridge, C	Wat dist sys study	0.280		0.140		0.042	
*Carleton Place, T	Sew coll sys study	0.040		0.020	0.009	0.009	
*Carleton Place, T	Wat dist sys study	0.029		0.014	0.006	0.006	
Clifford, V	Wat dist sys study	0.034		0.029	0.026	0.003	
Cobourg, T	Sew coll sys study	0.131		0.066	0.032	0.028	
*Cochrane, T	Sew coll sys study	0.110		0.063	0.050	0.007	
*Cochrane, T	Wat dist sys study	0.090		0.051	0.017	0.029	
Colborne, V	Sew coll sys study	0.073		0.057		0.051	
Cornwall, C	Sew coll sys study	0.300		0.150	0.090	0.045	
Cornwall, C	Wat dist sys study	0.200		0.100	0.077	0.023	
*Durham, RM	Sew coll sys study (Beaverton)	0.117		0.058		0.052	
*Durham, RM	Wat dist sys study (Beaverton)	0.053		0.027	0.024	0.003	
Dutton, V	Wat dist sys study	0.012		0.010		0.009	
Dresden, T	Wat dist sys study	0.018		0.013	0.012	0.001	
Dryden, T	Sew coll sys study	0.140		0.070		0.063	
Dryden, T	Wat dist sys study	0.140		0.070		0.063	
*East York, Borough	Sew coll sys study	0.500		0.250	0.045	0.045	
Elora, V	Wat dist sys study	0.018		0.013	0.008	0.005	
Ernestown, Twp	Sew coll sys study	0.045		0.023		0.007	
Ernestown, Twp	Sew coll sys study	0.030		0.015		0.012	
Euphrasia, Twp	Sew coll sys study	0.060		0.049		0.044	
Exeter, T	Wat dist sys study	0.014		0.009	0.008	0.001	
Etobicoke, C	1988 dye testing program	0.068		0.034	0.031	0.003	
Etobicoke, C	1989 dye testing program	0.120		0.060		0.054	
Euphrasia, Twp	Sew coll sys study	0.060		0.049		0.044	
Fenelon Falls, V	Sew coll sys study	0.050		0.039	0.025	0.010	
Fergus, T	Sew coll sys study	0.030		0.015	0.014	0.001	
Fergus, T	Wat dist sys study	0.012		0.006	0.005	0.001	
Gananoque, T	Sew coll sys study	0.098		0.053	0.026	0.022	
Gananoque, T	Wat dist sys study	0.026		0.014		0.014	
Geraldton, T	Sew coll sys study	0.010		0.007	0.004	0.003	

Municipality	Description	Gross cost	Project Listing (in millions)			89-90 alloc	expd YTD
			Per cent eligible	Grant	Prior years		
Needs study—(continued)							
Gloucester, C	Sew coll sys study	0.460		0.230	0.065	0.050	
Goderich, T	Wat dist sys study	0.018		0.009	0.005	0.004	
Goulbourn, Twp	Sew coll sys study	0.074		0.037	0.033	0.004	
Grimsby, T	Sew coll sys study	0.140		0.070	0.062	0.008	
*Halton, RM	Sew coll sys study	0.905		0.453	0.070	0.075	
*Halton, RM	Wat dist sys study	0.905		0.453	0.025	0.075	
Hanover, T	Sew coll sys study	0.032		0.016		0.016	
Harriston, T	Wat dist sys study	0.011		0.008	0.007	0.001	
Hensall, V	Wat dist sys study	0.008		0.007	0.006	0.001	
Iroquois Falls, T	Sew coll sys study	0.248		0.124	0.057	0.025	
Iroquois Falls, T	Wat dist sys study	0.128		0.064		0.021	
Kanata, C	Sew coll sys study	0.115		0.058	0.058	0.000	
Kenora, T	Sew coll sys study	0.200		0.100		0.045	
Kenora, T	Wat dist sys study	0.150		0.075		0.034	
Killaloe Station, V	Sew coll sys study	0.021		0.018		0.016	
Kingston, C	Wat dist sys study	0.200		0.100		0.090	
Kingsville, T	Wat dist sys study	0.024		0.012		0.011	
Kitchener, C	Jansen Ave sewer study	0.045		0.023		0.021	
Lancaster, V	Sew coll sys study	0.045		0.038	0.035	0.003	
Leamington, T	Wat dist sys study	0.050		0.025		0.017	
Lion's Head, V	Wat dist sys study	0.019		0.016		0.014	
*Lindsay, T	Sims implementations program	0.022		0.011		0.010	
*Lindsay, T	Wat dist sys study	0.150		0.075		0.067	
Little Current, T	Wat dist sys study	0.025		0.020	0.011	0.009	
London, C	Sew coll sys study	0.200		0.100	0.090	0.010	
London, C	Wat dist sys study	0.300		0.150		0.100	
Madoc, V	Sew coll sys study	0.060		0.050		0.045	
Madoc, V	Wat dist sys study	0.025		0.021		0.019	
Maidstone, Twp	Sew coll sys study	0.120		0.060		0.054	
Manitouwadge, Twp	Wat dist sys study	0.060		0.039		0.035	
Markdale, V	Wat dist sys study	0.032		0.027	0.021	0.006	
*Markham, T	Sew coll sys study	1.233		0.617	0.049	0.129	
*Markham, T	Wat dist sys study	0.802		0.401	0.028	0.123	
Marmora, V	Sew coll sys study	0.026		0.021	0.015	0.006	
Mattawa, T	Sew coll sys study	0.027		0.019		0.017	
Mattawa, T	Wat dist sys study	0.005		0.004		0.004	
Meaford, T	Sew coll sys study	0.090		0.052	0.042	0.010	
Meaford, T	Wat dist sys study	0.070		0.041		0.037	
Merrickville, V	Sew coll sys study	0.060		0.051		0.046	
Merrickville, V	Wat dist sys study	0.030		0.026		0.023	
Millbrook, V	Sew coll sys study	0.046		0.039	0.016	0.015	
Moore, Twp	Sew coll sys study	0.032		0.016		0.014	
Moore, Twp	Wat dist sys study	0.020		0.010		0.009	
*Muskoka, DM	Sew coll sys study	0.300		0.150	0.067	0.034	
*Muskoka, DM	Wat dist sys study	0.300		0.150	0.067	0.034	
Napanee, Greater	Sew coll sys study	0.095		0.048	0.043	0.005	
Napanee, Greater	Wat dist sys study	0.025		0.013	0.012	0.001	
Nepean, C	Woodbridge/Bayshore	0.030		0.015	0.013	0.002	
Nepean, C	Skyline subdivision	0.026		0.013	0.023	-0.010	
Nepean, C	Lakeview subdivision	0.010		0.005		0.005	
Nepean, C	Carleton Heights subdivision	0.024		0.012	0.011	0.001	
Nepean, C	City View/St Claire Gardens	0.036		0.018	0.016	0.002	
Nepean, C	Manordale area	0.032		0.016	0.014	0.002	
Nepean, C	Qualicum area	0.047		0.024	0.021	0.003	
Nepean, C	Crystal Beach area	0.025		0.012	0.011	0.001	
Nepean, C	Meadowlands area	0.066		0.033	0.030	0.003	
Nepean, C	Bells Corner/Westcliffe area	0.054		0.027	0.025	0.002	
Nepean, C	Leslie Park area	0.036		0.018	0.016	0.002	

Municipality	Description	Gross cost	Project Listing (in millions)				expd YTD
			Per cent eligible	Grant	Prior years	89-90 alloc	
Needs study—(continued)							
Nepean, C	Fairfield Heights area	0.025		0.013	0.012	0.001	
Nepean, C	Parkwood Hills area	0.078		0.039	0.023	0.016	
Nepean, C	Uncommitted funds	0.033		0.017			
*Niagara, RM (Fort Erie)	Sew coll sys study	0.630		0.315	0.120	0.164	
*Niagara, RM(Niag-on-Lk)	Sew coll sys study	0.462		0.231	0.128	0.080	
Niagara-on-the-Lake	Wat dist sys study	0.038		0.019		0.017	
*North York, C	Prince Charles study	0.150		0.075		0.067	
*North York, C	Wilket Creek study	0.285		0.143	0.039	0.090	
*North York, C	Unallocated funds	1.315		0.658	0.277	0.175	
*North York, C	1988 dye testing program	0.730		0.365	0.313	0.036	
*North York, C	Wat dist sys study	1.480		0.740	0.167	0.167	
*Orillia, C	Sew coll sys study	0.211		0.106	0.052	0.044	
*Ottawa, C	Basement flooding/Stromwater rei	0.250		0.125	0.083	0.042	
*Ottawa, C	Fairbanks/Kilborn/Braeside area	0.050		0.025	0.021	0.004	
Ottawa-Carleton, RM	Sew coll sys study	0.135		0.068	0.061	0.007	
Ottawa-Carleton, RM	Wat dist sys study	0.400		0.200	0.180	0.020	
Owen Sound, C	Sew coll sys study	0.200		0.100	0.090	0.010	
Owen Sound, C	Wat dist sys study	0.150		0.075		0.034	
Palmerston, T	Sew coll sys study	0.048		0.037	0.033	0.004	
Palmerston, T	Wat dist sys study	0.030		0.023	0.021	0.002	
Paris, T	Wat dist sys study	0.200		0.100	0.017	0.023	
Parry Sound, T	Sew coll sys study	0.025		0.013		0.012	
Parry Sound, T	Wat dist sys study	0.025		0.013	0.004	0.009	
*Peel, RM	Sew coll sys study	0.710		0.355	0.072	0.100	
Penetanguishene, T	Sew coll sys study	0.021		0.011		0.010	
Penetanguishene, T	Wat dist sys study	0.008		0.004		0.004	
*Perth, T	Sew coll sys study	0.100		0.050		0.045	
*Perth, T	Wat dist sys study	0.055		0.028	0.010	0.015	
Peterborough, C	Wat dist sys study	0.180		0.090		0.027	
Petrolia, T	Wat dist sys study	0.026		0.015	0.014	0.001	
Picton, T	Sew coll sys study	0.056		0.033	0.023	0.010	
Pittsburgh, Twp	Sew coll sys study	0.025		0.019		0.017	
Plantagenet, V	Sew coll sys study	0.023		0.020		0.020	
Port Elgin, T	Sew coll sys study	0.219		0.110	0.027	0.037	
Port Hope, T	Sew coll sys study	0.190		0.095	0.086	0.009	
Port Stanley, V	Sew coll sys study	0.029		0.022		0.022	
Port Stanley, V	Wat dist sys study	0.014		0.011		0.012	
Powassan, T	Sew coll sys study	0.010		0.008		0.007	
Powassan, T	Wat dist sys study	0.010		0.008		0.007	
Prescott, T	Wat dist sys study	0.025		0.014		0.012	
Red Lake, Twp	Sew coll sys study	0.035		0.027		0.024	
Red Lake, Twp	Wat dist sys study	0.030		0.023		0.021	
Renfrew, T	Sew coll sys study	0.065		0.033	0.020	0.010	
Richmond Hill, T	Sew coll sys study	0.356		0.178	0.009	0.040	
Richmond Hill, T	Wat dist sys study	0.250		0.125	0.012	0.030	
Rockcliffe Park, V	Sew coll sys study	0.050		0.037	0.021	0.012	
Rockland, T	Sew coll sys study	0.080		0.040		0.036	
Rockland, T	Wat dist sys study	0.040		0.020		0.018	
Sandwich South, Twp	Sew coll sys study	0.041		0.022	0.002	0.018	
Sandwich South, Twp	Wat dist sys study	0.028		0.015	0.003	0.010	
*Scarborough, C	Sew coll sys study	2.108		1.054	0.483	0.200	
*Scarborough, C	Wat dist sys study	1.485		0.733	0.128	0.100	
Scarborough, C	WIMS	0.137		0.069	0.017	0.045	
Sioux Lookout, T	Sew coll sys study	0.038		0.026	0.023		
Smiths Falls, T	Sew coll sys study	0.096		0.048	0.045	0.003	
Smiths Falls, T	Wat dist sys study	0.057		0.028	0.026	0.002	
Smooth Rock Falls, T	Wat dist sys study	0.053		0.040	0.036	0.004	
South Dumfries, Twp	Wat dist sys study	0.020		0.012		0.011	

Municipality	Description	Gross cost	Project Listing (in millions)				expd YTD
			Per cent eligible	Grant	Prior years	89-90 alloc	
Needs study—(continued)							
St Clair Beach, V	Sew coll sys study	0.030		0.021		0.018	
Stirling, V	Sew coll sys study	0.039		0.031	0.015	0.013	
Stratford, C	Sew coll sys study	0.050		0.025		0.022	
Stratford, C	Sew coll sys study	0.500		0.250		0.045	
Strathroy, T	Sew coll sys study	0.060		0.030		0.022	
Sudbury, RM	Wat dist sys study	0.052		0.026	0.023	0.003	
Tecumseh, T	Sew coll sys study	0.058		0.029		0.026	
Thorold, C	Sew coll sys study	0.170		0.085		0.076	
Thorold, C	Wat dist sys study	0.085		0.043	0.023	0.020	
Thunder Bay, C	Sew coll sys study	0.500		0.250	0.025	0.050	
Thunder Bay, C	Wat dist sys study	0.500		0.250		0.050	
Tilbury, T	Sew coll sys study	0.025		0.015		0.013	
Tilbury, T	Wat dist sys study	0.020		0.012		0.011	
Timmins, C	Sew coll sys study	0.015		0.008	0.007	0.001	
Timmins, C	Wat dist sys study	0.015		0.008	0.007	0.001	
Tottenham, V	Sew coll sys study	0.100		0.069		0.062	
Trenton, C	Wat dist sys study	0.201		0.100	0.050	0.040	
Tuckersmith, Twp	Sew coll sys study	0.030		0.021		0.019	
Tweed, V	Sew coll sys study	0.048		0.038	0.028	0.006	
Tweed, V	Wat dist sys study	0.009		0.007	0.005	0.002	
Vankleek Hill, T	Sew coll sys study	0.050		0.039		0.035	
Vaughan, T	Sew coll sys study	0.115		0.058		0.052	
Wallaceburg, T	Sew coll sys study	0.100		0.050	0.014	0.031	
Wallaceburg, T	Wat dist sys study	0.150		0.075	0.043	0.025	
Wellington, V	Wat dist sys study	0.010		0.008	0.004	0.004	
Westport, V	Sew coll sys study	0.062		0.053	0.039	0.014	
Winchester, V	Sew coll sys study	0.055		0.042		0.038	
Winchester, V	Wat dist sys study	0.030		0.023		0.021	
Windsor, C	Riverside area study	0.642		0.321		0.096	
Windsor, C	Drouillard Rd area study	0.150		0.075		0.067	
Windsor, C	Wat dist sys study	0.160		0.080		0.072	
Woodstock, C	Wat dist sys study	0.300		0.150		0.030	
*Woolwich, Twp (Elmira)	Sew coll sys study	0.206		0.103	0.094	0.009	
*Woolwich, Twp (St Jac)	Sew coll sys study	0.104		0.052	0.041	0.011	
*York, C	Sew coll sys study	0.799		0.400	0.036	0.069	
*York, C	Wat dist sys study	0.799		0.400	0.036	0.069	

Municipality	Description	Gross cost	Project Listing (in millions)				expd YTD
			Per cent eligible	Grant	Prior years	89-90 alloc	
Implementation (construction)							
Belleville, C	Southwest area sanitary sew	0.581	100.0	0.194	0.133	0.061	
Brockville, C	Watermain on Butterfield Place	0.061	100.0	0.020	0.019	0.001	
Cambridge, C	Schlueter St sew replac	0.069	100.0	0.023		0.023	
Cambridge, C	St Andrew/Cedar St sewer	0.296	100.0	0.099		0.099	
Cambridge, C	Delta/Hespeler Rd sew replac	0.210	100.0	0.070		0.000	
Cambridge, C	Park Ave water replac	0.180	100.0	0.060		0.060	
Collingwood, T	Sew Second St Birch to Pine	0.065	100.0	0.022	0.019	0.003	
Cornwall, C	Water on Second St Felix to Glen	0.032	35.0	0.004		0.004	
Etobicoke, C	Allenby Ave sew replac	0.378	100.0	0.126	0.114	0.012	
Etobicoke, C	Islington Ave water replac	0.618	100.0	0.206	0.177	0.029	
Etobicoke, C	Water cleaning and cement lining	1.738	100.0	0.579	0.393	0.196	
Etobicoke, C	Rexdale watermain Isl to Kip	1.016	80.0	0.271	0.225	0.046	
Etobicoke, C	Rexdale watermain Kip to Mart	0.825	80.0	0.220		0.198	
Fort Erie, T	Dunlop/Gilmore St sew diver	0.181	100.0	0.060	0.049	0.011	
Fort Erie, T	Gilmore Rd sew replac	0.335	100.0	0.112	0.082	0.030	
Fort Erie, T	Ferguson/Joseph area water	0.459	100.0	0.153	0.136	0.017	

Municipality	Description	Gross cost	Project Listing (in millions)				expd YTD
			Per cent eligible	Grant	Prior years	89-90 alloc	
Implementation (construction)—(continued)							
Gananoque, T	Charles/King St sew replac	0.300	100.0	0.100	0.058	0.042	
Gananoque, T	Charles/King St water replac	0.325	100.0	0.108	0.039	0.069	
Halton, RM	Maple Ave trunk sew rehab	0.060	100.0	0.020	0.018	0.002	
Halton, RM	Maple Ave trunk sew rehab	0.333	90.0	0.100	0.090	0.010	
Harriston, T	Elora/Arthur St water replac	0.233	100.0	0.078		0.000	
Harrow, T	King St water replac	0.151	100.0	0.050	0.047	0.003	
Kanata, C	Problem areas-1987 TV	0.175	100.0	0.058	0.058	0.000	
Leamington, T	Talbot St watermain	0.626	70.0	0.146		0.131	
Leamington, T	Talbot St sewer	0.469	100.0	0.156		0.140	
Lincoln, T	King St sew relining	0.033	100.0	0.011	0.010	0.001	
Lincoln, T	Brookside Dr water replac	0.248	75.0	0.060	0.046	0.014	
Lincoln, T	Beamsville sewer repairs - 1988	0.050	100.0	0.017		0.000	
Lincoln, T	Victoria Ave water replac	0.715	80.0	0.191		0.000	
Lincoln, T	Replac water on Durham Rd	0.083	80.0	0.022		0.022	
Lincoln, T	Replac water on West Vineland	0.048	100.0	0.016		0.000	
Listowel, T	Wallace Ave N sew rehab	0.527	95.7	0.168	0.151	0.017	
Mersea, Twp	Maretette Pk subdiv water	0.051	100.0	0.017		0.000	
Mount Forest	Sew replace Sligo Rd Main-Church	0.156	90.0	0.046	0.041	0.005	
Nepean, C	Sky/Orch Pk/Pk Hills sewer	0.029	100.0	0.010	0.050	-0.040	
Nepean, C	Crystal Beach area sew rehab	0.029	100.0	0.010	0.017	-0.007	
Nepean, C	City View/St Claire area sewer	0.063	100.0	0.021	0.019	0.002	
Nepean, C	Carleton Hgts sew rehab	0.230	100.0	0.077	0.129	-0.052	
Nepean, C	Manordale sew rehab	0.026	100.0	0.009	0.018	-0.009	
Nepean, C	Lynwood area sew rehab	0.090	100.0	0.030	0.024	0.006	
Nepean, C	Qualicum area sew rehab	0.108	100.0	0.036	0.053	-0.017	
Newmarket, T	Walter Ave sew replac	0.195	80.0	0.052	0.047	0.005	
Niagara-on-the-Lake	Johnson storm/san, service conn	0.035	100.0	0.012		0.012	
Niagara-on-the-Lake	Various water replac	0.493	93.0	0.153	0.127	0.026	
Niagara-on-the-Lake, T	Niagara urban service area-phase I	1.020	67.5	0.229		0.000	
North York, C	Sew const proj	0.300	100.0	0.100	0.043	0.057	
North York, C	Downsview Ave water replac	0.360	100.0	0.120	0.109	0.011	
North York, C	Replac sew on Dell Pk & Glenmount	0.160	70.0	0.037	0.038	-0.001	
North York, C	San sew on Smallwood Dr	0.253	100.0	0.084		0.000	
North York, C	Sew on Epsom/Datched/Marlington	0.330	75.0	0.082		0.008	
Ottawa, C	Sew replac Roosevelt, Cole-Avon	0.237	100.0	0.079		0.000	
Ottawa, C	Sew replac River Rd & Queen Mary	0.110	100.0	0.037		0.000	
Ottawa, C	Sew replac King Geo & Pr Alb	0.214	100.0	0.071		0.000	
Ottawa, C	Sew replac Putman St, Beech-Chaf	0.100	100.0	0.033		0.000	
Ottawa, C	Sew replac Pooler, Elder-Desch	0.060	100.0	0.020		0.000	
Ottawa, C	Sew replac Alta/Lennox/Cluney	0.140	100.0	0.047		0.000	
Ottawa, C	Sew replac Roosevelt, Cole-Avon	0.237	100.0	0.079		0.000	
Ottawa, C	Sew replac King Geo & Pr Alb	0.214	100.0	0.071		0.000	
Ottawa-Carleton, RM	Sewer sealing prog-1987	1.210	100.0	0.403	0.364	0.039	
Ottawa-Carleton, RM	Sewer sealing prog-1988	0.500	100.0	0.167	0.135	0.017	
Ottawa-Carleton, RM	Water on Nelson, Laurier-Somerset	0.200	90.0	0.060		0.060	
Ottawa-Carleton, RM	Water on Gloucester, Percy-Lyon	0.100	80.0	0.027		0.027	
Ottawa-Carleton, RM	Water on Garland & Armstrong Sts	0.244	80.0	0.065		0.065	
Ottawa-Carleton, RM	Water on Booth, Gladstone-Somerset	0.599	55.0	0.110		0.110	
Ottawa-Carleton, RM	Water on Valewood, West Pk-West Pk	0.175	80.0	0.047		0.000	
Ottawa-Carleton, RM	Water on Springfield, Rideau-Maple	0.135	80.0	0.036		0.036	
Peel, RM	Etobicoke Dr sew replac	0.035	100.0	0.012	0.012	0.000	
Peel, RM	Der/Cath/Nan sew replac	0.275	100.0	0.092	0.083	0.009	
Peel, RM	King St sew replac	0.900	75.0	0.225	0.178	0.022	
Peel, RM	Merritt Ave sew replac	0.105	100.0	0.035	0.031	0.004	
Peel, RM	Elizabeth St N sew replac	0.195	100.0	0.065	0.048	0.017	
Peel, RM	Horwood Ave sew replac	0.085	90.0	0.025	0.019	0.006	
Peel, RM	Well/Jam/Nel water replac	0.126	100.0	0.042	0.038	0.004	
Peel, RM	Merritt Ave water replac	0.080	100.0	0.027	0.024	0.003	

Municipality	Description	Gross cost	Project Listing (in millions)				expd YTD
			Per cent eligible	Grant	Prior years	89-90 alloc	
Implementation (construction)—(continued)							
Peel, RM	Parkerhill Rd water replac	0.096	100.0	0.032	0.029	0.003	
Peel, RM	Halliday Ave water replac	0.250	100.0	0.083	0.066	0.017	
Peel, RM	Haig/Slyva/Myron water replac	0.840	100.0	0.280	0.241	0.039	
Peel, RM	Birch/Mellow Crts watermain	0.230	100.0	0.077	0.069	0.008	
Peel, RM	Alexandra Ave water replac	0.732	100.0	0.244		0.000	
Picton, T	Bridge St sew from Main to Church	0.473	55.0	0.087	0.034	0.053	
Picton, T	York St sew from Pitt to Church	0.027	100.0	0.009			
Port Colborne, C	Merr Pkwy/Corv St watermain	0.177	76.3	0.045		0.045	
Port Colborne, C	McCrae Ave water replac	0.132	75.0	0.033	0.030	0.003	
Port Colborne, C	Welland St water replac	0.110	55.0	0.020	0.018	0.002	
Port Colborne, C	Steele St water replac	0.080	100.0	0.027	0.024	0.003	
Port Stanley, V	Water on Harr/Vict/Merv/Fair	0.134	100.0	0.045	0.040	0.005	
Red Lake, Twp	Water on Hwy 105 & ROW to hosp	0.111	100.0	0.037		0.000	
Renfrew, T	1987 TV inspection repairs	0.020	100.0	0.007	0.006	0.001	
Richmond Hill, T	Pemberton Rd water replac	0.111	100.0	0.037		0.000	
Richmond Hill, T	Scott/McKay Dr water replac	0.230	100.0	0.077		0.077	
Richmond Hill, T	Richmond St water replac	0.130	100.0	0.043	0.039	0.004	
St. Thomas, C	Replac water on Well, Ross-First	0.300	70.0	0.070	0.063	0.007	
St. Thomas, C	Water Anne, Stan-Will, Met-Croc	0.112	100.0	0.037	0.029	0.009	
St. Thomas, C	Replac water Erie, Fourth-First	0.125	100.0	0.042	0.039	0.003	
Sault Ste Marie	Trunk Rd/Hwy 17B watermain	0.390	100.0	0.130		0.130	
Sioux Lookout, T	Sew on Prince, Sixth-W of Seventh	0.060	100.0	0.020		0.020	
Smiths Falls, T	Replac sew on Brock, Orch-Broad	0.402	100.0	0.134	0.057	0.060	
Smiths Falls, T	Water on Brock, Orch-Broad	0.402	80.0	0.107	0.043	0.048	
Sudbury, RM	Hawthorne Dr water replac	0.067	100.0	0.022	0.020	0.002	
Sudbury, RM	Martindale Rd cathod prot	0.096	100.0	0.032		0.030	
Sudbury, RM	Lasalle Blvd water replac	1.182	71.2	0.280	0.253	0.027	
Sudbury, RM	Bancroft Dr water rep	0.885	100.0	0.295	0.111	0.184	
Sudbury, RM	Variety of water projects	0.624	100.0	0.208	0.185	0.023	
Sudbury, RM	Variety of sew projects	0.223	100.0	0.074	0.066	0.008	
Wallaceburg, T	Replac water on Gillard St	0.160	80.0	0.043	0.040	0.003	
Wilmot, Twp	Marvin St sew replac	0.075	100.0	0.025		0.022	
Windsor, C	Phase 1A & 1B sewer	0.372	100.0	0.124	0.095	0.029	

## WORK PERMITS

**137 Mr Mackenzie:** Will the Minister of Labour provide for the most recent complete year, and whatever partial-year data may exist, the names of all companies who have applied for overtime permits under the Employment Standards Act, the number of employees and the aggregate number of hours covered in each application, the operating period covered by each application? Will he provide the same information for all companies who have been granted such permits during the same period(s)? Will he indicate the number of complaints received by the Employment Standards Branch, the number of charges filed by his officials and the number of convictions registered for the same period(s) relating to overtime and hours of work? [Tabled 9 May 1989].

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** In response to the above question, the attached listing provides informa-

tion on initial and special excess hours permits granted under the Employment Standards Act in the 1988-89 fiscal year. Information is not maintained on the basis of permits requested.

The initial section 20(1) permit applies to all employees in the establishment to which the permit is issued, and grants 100 excess hours per year to each employee except for the occupations designated under section 20(1)(a) for 12 excess hours per week. Once granted, the permit needs to be renewed only where there is a change of address or company name.

The special section 20(2) permit expires in the calendar year in which it is granted. The listing identifies the number of employees for whom each permit was issued and the sum of the excess hours issued to these employees.

During the 1988-89 fiscal year, 1,890 claim files involved overtime pay claims and 111 involved part IV (hours of work) of the act. In the

same period, charges were laid in one instance for hours-of-work violations (still ongoing) and charges were filed in four instances where overtime pay was owing. In two of these cases,

prosecution was withdrawn as the wages owing were paid by way of third-party demand. The remaining cases are ongoing.

**Permit to work excess hours under section 20(1)  
of the *Employment Standards Act*  
Fiscal year 1988-89**

Employer Name	Location
<b>Issued in 1988</b>	
Huntsville District Memorial Hospital	Huntsville
533116 Ontario Ltd o/a Shuttleworth Truck Mufflers	London
Chrysler Canada Ltd, Parts Distribution Division	Mississauga
Young Women's Christian Association of Metropolitan Toronto	Toronto
Allied-Signal Canada Inc, Certified Brakes Division	Mississauga
Dow Chemical Canada Inc	Sarnia
Township of Woolrich	Elmira
Metals for Industry Ltd.	Mississauga
Steetley Talc Inc	Timmins
South Muskoka Memorial Hospital	Bracebridge
Stelco Steel, A Division of Stelco Inc, Hilton Works	Hamilton
DTA Services Ltd	Toronto
City of Niagara Falls, Canada	Niagara Falls
Trim-Gard Co Ltd	London
Insulec Ltd	Aurora
Community Living Owen Sound and District	Owen Sound
ODG Ontario Drive and Gear Ltd	New Hamburg
Port Colborne Hydro-Electric Commission	Port Colborne
Norgren Martonair (Canada) Inc	Mississauga
Finlay Greenwood Inc	Hamilton
Hayes-Dana Inc, RAF Division, Regional Assembly Facility	Burlington
Hayes-Dana Inc, RAF Division, Regional Assembly Facility	Oakville
Duracon, A Division of Lake Ontario Cement Ltd	Chatham
Hayes-Dana Inc, RAF	Chatham
A. C. Hamilton and Co Ltd	Mississauga
Parry Sound District General Hospital	Parry Sound
Thermogenics Inc	Aurora
Brian's Custom Pro Manufacturing	Kingsville
Ritz Lutheran Villa	Mitchell
Ovalbay Geological Services Inc	Thunder Bay
Dan and Cheryl Leavoy o/a Captain Dan Lake St Clair Walleye Charter Service	Belle River
Maidstone Manufacturing Inc	Tecumseh
Beckman Industrial Electronic Technologies Div, Div of Emerson Electric Canada Ltd	Toronto
Rolland Inc, Distribution Division	Etobicoke
MJS Enterprises Ltd	Kenora
Work Wear Corp of Canada Ltd	Waterloo
Dr Gordon Dzieciol, MD	Scarborough
Phantom Industries Inc	Toronto
Mitten Vinyl Inc	Cambridge
Bendix Electronics Ltd, Induction Cooling Products	Chatham
Huron Association for the Mentally Retarded	Midland
Solar Plastics Extrusions Inc	Toronto

Employer Name	Location
Nor-Arc Steel Fabricators	Earlton
Compound Dispersers Inc	Kitchener
Body-Shapers of Kapuskasing	Kapuskasing
Fleetwood Metal Industries, A Division of Starcan Corp	Tilbury
Fleetwood Metal Industries, A Division of Starcan Corp	Otterville
Telecom Service Co	Willowdale
John C. Preston Ltd	Toronto
Willett Hospital	Paris
Burlington Air Express (Canada) Ltd	Mississauga
Westgate Honda, A Division of 242747 Ontario Ltd	London
Canadian Dental Service Plans Inc	Willowdale
Corporation of the city of Barrie	Barrie
Elizabeth Fry Society, Peel-Halton Branch	Brampton
Hudson's Bay Co	Toronto
Harriston and Minto Community Centre	Harriston
Kaptest Inc	Kapuskasing
Butler Polymet, A Division of Guthrie Canadian Investments Ltd	Cambridge
Butler Polymet, A Division of Guthrie Canadian Investments Ltd	Guelph
Canadian Security Printers Inc	Mississauga
Super Carnival Food Stores Ltd	Toronto
Electro Minerals (Canada) Inc	Niagara Falls
AFG Glass Inc	Scarborough
Component Manufacturing Industries	Windsor
Fildebrandt Precision Industries Ltd	Kanata
Kretschmar Inc	Don Mills
Vaughn Custom Sports Canada	London
7-11 Pools and Metalfab Ltd cob as 7-11 Pool Products	Toronto
Olympus Plastics Ltd	Richmond Hill
Toroplast Injection Ltd	Barrie
Prince Plastics Ltd	Woodbridge
Polytech Netting Industries, Div of Tecsyn Canada Ltd	Orillia
Kayser Design Studio, Div of T.A.G. Apparel Group Inc	Toronto
VanRaalte Design Studio, Div of T.A.G. Apparel Group Inc	Toronto
UniFirst Canada Ltd	Mississauga
UniFirst Canada Ltd	Mississauga
Lundia (1982) Ltd	Barrie
Metals for Industry Ltd	Mississauga
Grimsby/Lincoln and District Association for Community Living Inc	Beamsville
Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority	Hanover
Grey Sauble Conservation Authority	Owen Sound
Temporarily Yours, A Division of Hunt Personnel	Toronto
K-mart Canada Ltd, Distribution Centre	Brampton
Quinte Hearing Handicapped Community Services Association Inc	Belleville
C.E. Canada Combustion Engineering Inc	Cornwall
Steetley Talc Inc	Timmins
Simmons Ltd	Cornwall
Odonto Corp Ltd	Morrisburg
Town of Vaughan	Maple
T.H. Best Printing Co Ltd	Don Mills
Autosystems Manufacturing Inc	Belleville
Sunnybrook Hospital, University of Toronto Clinic	Toronto
J.R.I. Food Corp	Mississauga
Buckeye Industries Ltd	Toronto
Buckeye Industries Ltd	Hanover
Southdown, Emmanuel Convalescent Foundation	Aurora

Employer Name	Location
Board of Education for the borough of Etobicoke	Etobicoke
Corporation of the town of Markham	Markham
City of Scarborough, Recreation and Parks Department	Scarborough
Casio Canada Ltd	Scarborough
Burkhard Getta, Barbara Reade and Kathleen Rafuse cob as Body Shapers of North Bay	North Bay
Hy-Grade Precast Concrete, Division of Six Bros Ltd	St Catharines
Midcom Communications Inc	Markham
Deloro Stellite Inc	Belleville
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co	Ottawa
BMI Refractories Inc	Smithville
BASF Canada Inc (Corunna Site)	Corunna
Stevens Controls (1987) Ltd	Renfrew
Paja Co Ltd	Toronto
McClelland and Stewart	Toronto
Casio Canada Ltd	Mississauga
Office Machinery and Supply Co Ltd	Scarborough
Computer Forms Inc	Mississauga
Trident Automotive Products Inc	Mississauga
Falcon Tool and Die (1979) Ltd	Windsor
Philips Air Distribution Ltd, Lau Division	Kitchener
Plastic Engine Technology Corp	Kingston
London and District Association for the Mentally Retarded	London
R & S Plas-Techs Inc	Waterloo
Halton's Recycled Resources Ltd	Burlington
Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd	Welland
Trican Industries Ltd	Brantford
Hayes-Dana Inc, RAF Division, Regional Assembly Facility	Mississauga
Brantford YM-YWCA	Brantford
Operation Springboard	Sault Ste Marie
Covenant House Toronto	Toronto
Mackenzie Financial Corp	Toronto
BASF Canada Inc, Latex Manufacturing Division	Sarnia
Alan Stewart Homes Ltd cob as Stewart Homes	Peterborough
Arbor Dominion Ltd	Windsor
Empress Software Inc	Toronto
Northern Plastics Ltd	Beamsville
Bendix Electronics Ltd	Chatham
Southwest Tractor Inc	London
Arriscraft Corp	Cambridge
Corporation of the town of Collingwood	Collingwood
Salvation Army, Toronto Grace Hospital	Toronto
Maple Leaf Mills Ltd, Pet Food Plant	Guelph
Moore Business Forms & Systems, Division of Moore Corp Ltd	Kemptville
Rockwell International Suspension Systems Co Ltd	Chatham
Kao-Didak Ltd	Arnprior
Canadian Bearings Ltd	Mississauga
Bell Technical Services Inc	Willowdale
Plydex, A Division of Decoma International	Aurora
Baxter Corp	Mississauga
Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc	Cambridge
Monarch Fine Foods, A Division of Thomas J. Lipton Inc	Scarborough
City of Guelph	Guelph
Schmit Apparel Manufacturing Inc	London

Employer Name	Location
Zeretin Technical Services Ltd	Atikokan
Union Carbide Canada Ltd, Linde Hydrogen Plant	Oakville
Levi Strauss and Co (Canada) Inc	Stoney Creek
Pitney Bowes of Canada Ltd	Don Mills
Ensco Environmental Services Inc, Smithville CWML Site	Smithville
Ultra-Form Mfg Co Ltd	Rexdale
Canadian Direct Mailing Systems Ltd	Parry Sound
Epps Mfg Ltd	Clinton
Western Foundry Co Ltd	Wingham
Whitler Industries Ltd	Peterborough
Rowika Industries Ltd	Midland
Bramalea Ltd, Residential Management Division	Bramalea
Acustar Canada Inc, Ajax Trim Division	Ajax
Bendix Avelix Inc, Cornwall facility	Cornwall
Algonquin Industries International Inc	Huntsville
Glemby International Canada Ltd	Toronto
Stress/Crete Ltd	Burlington
Victoria Hospital	London
Syntex Inc	Mississauga
Prudential Assurance Co Ltd	Mississauga
First Choice Haircutters, operated by 612005 Ontario Inc	Toronto
Earl C. McDermid Ltd	Downsview
NCR Canada Ltd	Mississauga
Tuflin, Division of Xomox Canada Ltd	Downsview
J.E. Thomas Specialties Ltd	Lindsay
Denholme Manor	Hamilton
608507 Ontario Inc o/a Randy J. Leroux Security Guards	Cornwall
Hugh MacMillan Medical Centre	Toronto
St Catharines General Hospital	St Catharines
S.C. Walker Manufacturing Co Ltd	Ottawa
Esselte Meto, A Division of Esselte Pendaflex Canada Inc	Brampton
Carleton University	Ottawa
Tape Specialties Ltd	Concord
IBM Canada Ltd	Markham
Credit Valley Hospital	Mississauga
Corporation of the town of Simcoe, Community Services Department	Simcoe
Olan Mills	Kingston
Therm-O-Comfort Co Ltd	Aylmer
Fleck Manufacturing Inc, Vehicle Wiring Division	Tillsonburg
Exam 2001	Nepean
Reiss Lime Co of Canada Ltd	Sault Ste Marie
Kelly Services Ltd	Burlington
St Catharines Public Library	St Catharines
Colorization Inc	Toronto
Vinylink Corp	Cobourg
Donald F. McCulloch, MD	Port Elgin
Hartz Canada Inc	Rexdale
Promix Laboratories, A Division of Patheon Group Inc	Burlington
Woodbridge Inoac Inc	St Mary's
Colt Industries, Stemco Canada, Truck Products Division	Mississauga
Avon Sportswear	Toronto
Toronto District Heating Corp	Toronto
Blue Mountain Pottery "87" Inc	Collingwood
Cheddar Valley Equipment Inc	Tillsonburg

Employer Name	Location
Drake Office Overload	Kingston
W.R. Industries Ltd	Weston
Metal Enclosures Ltd	Scarborough
Tooling Enterprises	Scarborough
Focus Die and Stamping Ltd	Concord
Canada Packers Inc, Food Service Operations	Bramalea
North American Album Corp	Niagara Falls
Carleton Condominium Corp, No. 414 (Bearbrook Court Retirement Residence)	Gloucester
Courtice Steel, A Division of Harris Steel Ltd	Cambridge
Sky Apparel Inc	Kitchener
American Standard	Toronto
St Elizabeth Nursing Home	Hamilton
Thunder Bay Emergency Shelter Inc	Thunder Bay
Corporation of the town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	Stouffville
M & R Industrial Services Ltd	London
M & M Plating Co Ltd	Scarborough
Alcan Building Products, Division of Alcan Aluminium Ltd	Scarborough
Kalson Group Ltd	Mount Forest
Recorder and Times Ltd	Brockville
Sinteris Inc	Blenheim
Aetna Canada, The Excelsior Life Insurance Co	Toronto
Easy-Plan Industries Ltd	Pickering
Fineline Circuits Ltd	Scarborough
Sykes Enterprises Inc	Don Mills
Etobicoke Hydro Commission	Etobicoke
Courtice Steel, A Division of Harris Steel Ltd	Cambridge
Boxed Meat Revolution Ltd	Guelph
Micromar Mfg Corp	London
Fleck Manufacturing Inc	Tillsonburg
Highmark Properties, Yorkdale Place	Toronto
Catalyst Technology (Canada) Ltd	Sarnia
Sunroot Energy Ltd	Mississauga
Sunroot Energy Ltd	Kincardine
Oshawa and District Association for Community Living	Oshawa
Carriere Technical Industries Inc	Mississauga
De Biasa Tool and Machine Ltd	Mississauga
Hawtal Whiting of Canada Ltd, A Division of Hawtal Whiting Group	Windsor
SAF-T-CAB, Inc	Huron Park
Alcan Automotive Castings, Div of Alcan Aluminium Ltd	St Catharines
Victorian Order of Nurses, Halton Branch	Oakville
One-Vinyl Window Mfrs Ltd	Mississauga
Bearbrook Court Retirement Residence	Gloucester
CSL Silicones Inc	Guelph
Amstel Brewery Canada Ltd	Hamilton
Amstel Brewery Canada Ltd	Islington
Imperial Life Assurance Co of Canada	Toronto
TCE Canada, A Division of Intertan Canada Ltd	Barrie
Cano Structures Inc	Markham
Fordata, A Division of Glencree Investments Inc	Elmira
Royal Ottawa Hospital	Ottawa
Courtaulds Fibres Canada	Cornwall
R and R Tool and Mold Inc	La Salle
Niagara Falls Humane Society	Niagara Falls

**Employer Name****Location**

Master Craft Wood Turnings Ltd	Kitchener
Exeter Tool & Die Ltd	Exeter
Hastings Security Inc	Toronto
Sun Alliance and London Assurance Co Ltd	Toronto
Sun Alliance Insurance Co	Toronto
Bunn-Omatic Corp of Canada Ltd	Aurora
Linesteel Inc	Barrie
Drawtec Industries	Milton
Labatt's Ontario Breweries, Toronto, Division of Labatt Brewing Co Ltd	Etobicoke
Labatt's Ontario Breweries, Waterloo, Division of Labatt Brewing Co Ltd	Waterloo
Labatt's Ontario Breweries, London, Division of Labatt Brewing Co Ltd	London
Dominion Controls Co, Division of Babcock Industries Canada Inc	Stratford
Willie's Relishes	Waterloo
Becker Milk Co Ltd	Toronto
Quigley Canada Inc, Algoma Steel Corp	Sault Ste Marie
Smooth Rock Falls Hospital Corp	Smooth Rock Falls
Olsonite Co Ltd	Tilbury
Corporation of the town of Elliot Lake	Elliot Lake
Thomas J. Lipton Inc	Brampton
Advanced Alarm Systems, Division of Leeds Electric Ltd	Smiths Falls
International Rectifier Canada Ltd, Ltee	Markham
Val-Pak of Canada Ltd	Scarborough
Colortech Inc	Brampton
K.L. Fine Cars Ltd cob as Hyundai of Oakville	Oakville
Marineland of Canada Inc	Niagara Falls
Rezplast Manufacturing Inc	Coniston
Domtar Sonoco Containers Inc	Mississauga
Cadillac Fairview Corp Ltd	Ottawa
Moore Corp Ltd, Moore Business Forms & Systems Division	Trenton
Sievenpiper Associates Inc	Toronto
Fairlane Machine Tools Ltd	Tecumseh
Airshield Inc	Burlington
Canadian Astronautics Ltd	Ottawa
Jarvis Design & Display Ltd	Kemptville
Exodus Link Corp	Toronto
Peterborough Public Library	Peterborough

**Issued in 1989**

Miterplas Ltd	Mississauga
Scintrex Ltd	Concord
Dynaflex Plastics, A Division of Woodbridge Foam Corp	Port Hope
Canada's Wonderland Ltd (formerly 805955 Ontario Ltd)	Maple
National Magnet Wire Inc	Guelph
Quality Plastics, A Division of Firan Corp	Oakville
MacMillan House Corp cob as MacMillan House Community Resource Centre	Barrie
Westinghouse Canada Inc	Burlington
Brampton Engineering (1983) Inc	Brampton
Ronal Canada Inc	Stevensville
Rothmans, Benson and Hedges Inc	Brampton
Fernie House Inc	Pickering
P and A Euro Cars Ltd cob as Hyundai of Toronto	Toronto
Christie Brown & Co, Division of Nabisco Brands Ltd	Toronto
St Vincent de Paul Home	Peterborough

Employer Name	Location
Carpenter & Paterson Pipe Hangers Ltd	Jarvis
CIBA-Geigy Canada Ltd	Mississauga
CIBA-Geigy Canada Ltd	Cambridge
Barbarian Sportswear Mfg Ltd	Kitchener
Tivoly Cutting Tools Inc, Butterfield Division	Smiths Falls
Westinghouse Canada Inc	Burlington
Waymac Custom Machine Ltd	Keswick
Aird & Berlis, Barristers and Solicitors	Toronto
Mirkopul Ltd	Bramalea
Flanagan Sales and Distribution Ltd	Kitchener
Crosstown Cutter Services Ltd	Windsor
Fedders Inc	Orangeville
Felix Lopes Sheet Metal Ltd	Sudbury
General Chemical Canada Ltd	Amherstburg
General Chemical Canada Ltd	Mississauga
General Chemical Canada Ltd	Thorold
General Chemical Canada Ltd	Nellie Lake
General Chemical Canada Ltd	Thunder Bay
Metro Sportswear Ltd	Toronto
Wang Canada Ltd	Richmond Hill
Corporation of the town of Markham	Markham
Wallace and Carey Ltd	Rexdale
1988 Magic Pantry Foods	Hamilton
1988 Magic Pantry Foods	Brantford
Effem Foods Ltd	Bolton
Plummer Memorial Public Hospital	Sault Ste Marie
Blue Tanning Co Ltd	Cobourg
Toys "R" Us (Canada) Ltd	Rexdale
Imperial Optical Canada Ltd	Toronto
Corporation of the town of Orangeville	Orangeville
Firestone Textiles Co, A Division of Firestone Canada Inc	Woodstock
Allied-Signal Aerospace Canada Inc, Garret Canada, A Div of Allied-Signal Canada Inc	Rexdale
Lancer Security Services Inc	Islington
Security Probe Ltd	Mississauga
Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library	Stouffville
College Park, A Division of Toronto College Park Ltd	Toronto
Rick's Diesel and Hydraulics Ltd	Alban
Tele-Direct (Publications) Inc	Scarborough
Tele-Direct (Publications) Inc	Waterloo
Cambridge Gear Manufacturing Ltd	Cambridge
Havlik Enterprises Ltd	Cambridge
Spar Roofing Supplies Ltd	Toronto
Drossbach N.A. Inc	Belleville
Price & Knott Manufacturing Co Ltd	Ajax
Baxter Corp	Alliston
C.V. Mosby Co	Scarborough
Rehau Industries Inc	Prescott
Bennett & Hanson Ltd	Smiths Falls
Techni-Therm Inc	Cornwall
Marriott In-Flite Service of Canada Ltd, Marriott Chateau Flight Kitchen Malton	Toronto
Barton Tubes Ltd	Burlington
PPG Ink Products, A Division of PPG Canada Inc	Markham

**Employer Name****Location**

Cold Spring Farm Ltd	Thamesford
Board of Governors of Exhibition Place	Toronto
Creed Fitness Centre Inc	Sault Ste Marie
Nearbank Financial Centres Ltd	Toronto
Photopreneurs Inc	Markham
Bobowski Fabrication Inc	Woodstock
Three Trilliums Community Place Inc	Toronto
Shaw Pipe Protection Ltd	Rexdale
Shaw Pipe Protection Ltd	Hamilton
Shaw Pipe Protection Ltd	Welland
Holt Renfrew and Co Ltd	Rexdale
Master's Workshop Corp	Rexdale
Canada Optical Ltd	Deseronto
Liz Claiborne Accessories	Toronto
Bell Technical Services Inc	Scarborough
Conlin Engineering and Planning Ltd	Welland
Metropolitan General Hospital	Windsor
Packaging Group of Domtar Inc	Kitchener
Maison Mere Des Soeurs de la Charite D'Ottawa	Ottawa
Canada's Wonderland Inc (formerly 805955 Ontario Ltd)	Maple
Fujima International Inc	Brampton
Ottawa-Carleton Life Skills Inc	Ottawa
Nystrom Group	Woodbridge
Leeson Electric (Canada) Ltd	Mississauga
Woodstock Hydraulic Power Ltd	Woodstock
Welland County Roman Catholic Separate School Board	Welland
Sincerely Mouse	Mindemoya
Canadian Fabricated Products, A Division of Acustar Canada Inc	Stratford
Securican Inc	Toronto
Alcan Extrusions, A Division of Alcan Aluminium Ltd	Aurora
A.C. Nielson Co of Canada Ltd	Markham
Comtrade Petroleum Inc	Windsor
Comtrade Petroleum Inc	Markham
Comtrade Petroleum Inc	Brooklin
Almonte Community Development Corp	Toronto
Colour Systems Inc	Toronto
Retek Resource Recovery Inc	Brantford
Uniplast Industries Inc	Orillia
Bermark Jewellery Ltd	Downsview

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

**138 Mr Mackenzie:** Will the Minister of Labour table all studies either done by ministry officials or commissioned by the ministry relating to the occupational health and safety/workers' compensation status of workers at the Bendix automotive plant in Windsor? [Tabled 9 May 1989].

See sessional paper 44.

**CONFERENCE BOARD OF CANADA  
SEMINAR**

**162 Mr Sterling:** Would the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology state the

specific contributions, financial and otherwise, his ministry made to the Conference Board of Canada seminar entitled Managing Innovation and Technology on 27 April 1989 in Toronto? [Tabled 11 May 1989]

**Mr Sterling:** The financial contribution which the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology made to the conference was in the amount of \$8,795.95 with the following breakdown: reception and lunch, \$7,866.96; display and graphics, \$928.99.

In addition, registration fees of \$1,185 were paid for three ministry staff to attend the conference.

**163 Mr Sterling:** Would the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology list which of his staff attended the Managing Innovation and Technology seminar, their job titles, why they attended, what was their attendance fee and was this fee paid by the taxpayers of Ontario? [Tabled 11 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Kwinter:** The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology supported the Managing Innovation and Technology Conference organized by the Conference Board of Canada because the issue is a priority for the ministry. Three officials from the ministry were registered at the conference to represent the ministry, monitor policy developments in the area and develop contacts with client firms: David Redgrave, assistant deputy minister, policy and technology division; Gordon Starink, consultant, technology

policy branch; Dr Martin Walmsley, director, Premier's Council Technology Fund. The attendance fee was \$395 per person.

#### TECHNOLOGY FUND

**166 Mr Sterling:** Would the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology list every research project which has received funding through the Premier's Council Technology Fund, the money budgeted and the money spent to date on these projects? [Tabled 11 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Kwinter:** As of 11 May 1989, the Premier's Council Technology Fund has signed 14 contracts with companies under the industry research program. The total dollar value of these contracts is approximately \$81.3 million over five years. The following companies have requested and received grant payments as listed:

Company	Total grant payments received to 11 May	Total award	Total project cost
1 Adcom Electronics Ltd	\$ 110,551	\$ 970,660	\$ 1,941,320
2 Canadian Astronautics Ltd	468,859	2,480,200	6,908,400
3 Canadian Semi-Conductor Design Association	1,579,985	22,740,000	45,475,000
4 Cancarb Ltd	551,606	1,453,581	3,540,000
5 Canadian Fusion Fuels Technology Program	1,490,800	9,400,000	33,000,000
6 Cognos Inc	1,764,221	8,534,045	18,160,971
7 ISG Technologies Inc		4,781,441	9,562,882
8 Inco Ltd		2,813,435	5,729,000
9 Linimar Machine Ltd	584,223	4,200,495	8,400,990
10 Pylon Electronics	72,705	1,514,258	3,110,239
11 Sciex	3,370,529	17,927,000	34,537,794
12 Unitron Industries Ltd		2,132,500	3,925,000
13 Waterloo Scientific Inc	373,088	1,536,980	3,073,960
14 Ultra Lasertech		816,600	2,916,559
Total:	<u>\$10,366,567</u>	<u>\$81,301,195</u>	<u>\$108,292,115</u>

#### CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

**167 Mr Sterling:** Would the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology list the following information concerning each of the centres of excellence: staff numbers, staff salary ranges, money budgeted and money spent to date for

each centre, and the results of the research? [Tabled 11 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Kwinter:** There are seven centres of excellence that provide research grants to principal investigators in eight universities across the province. The budgets and totals spent to date for each of the centres are as follows:

Centres of Excellence	Total budget over five years	Total spent to date as at 11 May 1989
Waterloo Centre for Groundwater Research	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 2,295,378
Information Technology Research Centre	35,000,000	10,048,145
Ontario Laser and Lightwave Research Centre	22,000,000	8,489,359
Manufacturing Research Corp of Ontario	31,000,000	9,173,811
Ontario Centre for Materials Research	43,000,000	15,624,910
Institute for Space and Terrestrial Science	39,000,000	11,129,665
Telecommunications Research	26,000,000	8,721,729
Total:	<u>\$204,000,000</u>	<u>\$65,482,997</u>

The principal investigators and their research associates, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students are employees of their respective universities. The actual centre employees are the administrative staff within each centre. The one exception is the Institute for Space and Terrestrial Science, which does employ some scientific staff directly.

The administrative staff of each centre comprises an administrative head (general manager), typists and finance/accounting personnel. The junior positions are compensated at competitive industry rates. The administrative head of each centre receives an annual salary in the range of approximately \$75,000 to \$100,000 per year on contracts negotiated by the centre's board of directors. The overall direction, policy and program development are provided by the board of directors which is governed by the contract between each centre and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology. The board of directors is made up of representatives from universities and industry, who provide their time on a voluntary basis. Thus each centre captures the benefits of an excellent management team for very little direct cash outlay.

The centres' administrative expenses are currently averaging about 10 per cent of their total annual budgets. This would include salaries and benefits of centre staff, office rent, utilities, supplies, insurance, audit, communications and all other types of administrative expenses.

Each centre funds about four or five scientific theme areas. The theme areas comprise anywhere from 35 to 50 research projects. The projects vary in size and in the number of research associates, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students involved. The research is ongoing. Summaries and highlights of the research are best captured in the annual reports of the centres. The first reports will be available in

July 1989 and can be provided to Mr Sterling at that time.

#### ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT CORP

**168 Mr Sterling:** Would the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology explain why the Ontario Development Corp was not expanded to include a strategic modernization program, as promised in the 28 April 1987 Throne Speech? [Tabled 11 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Kwinter:** The strategic modernization program was conceived as an initiative proposed to selectively assist Ontario firms to develop significant new products and position themselves as world-scale competitors.

At the same time, the Premier's Council was undertaking a significant consultative process with Ontario industry to identify and recommend initiatives which responded to the need to keep Ontario industry competitive. This resulted in recommendation 7, Ontario risk sharing fund, in the report of the Premier's Council entitled *Competing in the New Global Economy*.

The concept of sharing the risk of investment required by emerging threshold firms in order to become multinational companies is a priority of this government and is consistent with and parallels the principles of the strategic modernization program.

As announced in the budget speech on 17 May 1989, risk-sharing support for emerging threshold firms will be provided with extensive private sector involvement.

**169 Mr Sterling:** Would the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology make available all correspondence, memoranda, reports and studies in his possession concerning his ministry's decision whether or not to expand the Ontario Development Corp to include a strategic modernization program? [Tabled 11 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Kwinter:** As announced in the budget speech on 17 May 1989, risk-sharing support for emerging threshold firms will be provided with extensive private sector involvement.

The details of this initiative, which is consistent with and parallels the principles of the strategic modernization program, are presently being finalized.

The details of the initiative, which will be delivered by the development corporations, will be available shortly.

#### STUDENT EXCHANGES

**170 Mr Sterling:** Would the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology explain why the graduate student exchange programs with Pacific Rim nations, announced in the 22 April 1989 throne speech, are currently under review after only one year of operation? [Tabled 11 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Kwinter:** The Pacific Rim business exchange (TradeWinds) program is a three-year initiative introduced by the ministry in 1988. This program is designed to provide nine university graduates with a work experience in either a private company in Japan or Korea, or a state government organization in the People's Republic of China.

Since the program involves a series of agreements among program participants, foreign companies, Chinese state government organizations and the ministry, it is necessary after one year to assess the effectiveness of the program prior to initiating the second and third recruitment stages. This assessment will be completed in September.

#### INTERPROVINCIAL TRADE

**171 Mr Sterling:** Would the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology provide this House with a list of all the interprovincial trade barriers he is aware of or has been made aware of which have prevented Ontario business or Ontario labour from doing business in other provinces in Canada? [Tabled 11 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Kwinter:** The Ontario government, together with other provinces, has been working since 1986 to reduce interprovincial trade barriers. A comprehensive list of interprovincial trade barriers has not been compiled given the nontransparent and administrative nature of many of these barriers. However, there are five major areas which have been identified where substantial barriers exist. These areas are: (1) provincial alcoholic beverage policies; (2) pro-

vincial procurement practices; (3) labour mobility; (4) norms and standards; (5) transportation.

Two of these issues, alcoholic beverage policies and procurement practices, are presently being dealt with by interprovincial negotiating panels and principles for nondiscrimination between provinces in these areas are being developed.

#### HIGHWAY SAFETY

**172 Mr Wiseman:** Would the Minister of Transportation state what action his ministry plans to take on the recent safety study his ministry was involved with concerning the King Street-Highway 20 intersection in the Hamilton-Wentworth region? [Tabled 11 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Fulton:** The safety study titled King/Centennial Intersection and Highway 20, Green Mountain Road to King Street: Collisions and Countermeasures, was completed in October 1988. This study recommended a number of short-, medium- and long-range countermeasures to improve the safety of the highway and intersection. This ministry has already implemented all of the recommended short-range countermeasures, except for a permanent motor vehicle inspection station on Highway 20.

Since property for an inspection station in this area is currently not available and ministry inspectors already undertake regular vehicle inspections along Highway 20, the potential benefits of a permanent inspection station would be negligible. The need for implementing the medium- and long-range countermeasures will be evaluated after the effectiveness of the short-range measures is determined.

#### LEGAL EXPENSES

**174 Mr Wildman:** Would the Minister of Natural Resources table in the Legislature a listing of all expenditures made by the ministry in 1988 and to date for 1989 on all legal expenses related to proceedings under the Crown Transfers Act in regard to applications brought forward by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union? [Tabled 18 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Kerrio:** The following is a list of the payments made by this ministry from 1 January 1989 regarding legal expenses related to proceedings under the Successor Rights (Crown Transfers) Act in regard to applications brought forward by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

1988: \$21,923.

1989: \$17,233.

**175 Mr Wildman:** Would the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet table in the Legislature a listing of all expenditures made by the Ontario government in 1988 and to date for 1989 on all legal expenses related to proceedings under the Crown Transfers Act in regard to applications brought forward by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union? [Tabled 18 May 1989]

**Hon Mr Elston:** Ontario Government expenditures for all legal expenses related to proceedings under the Crown Transfers Act in regard to applications brought forward by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union were:

1988: \$21,923.

1989: \$86,208.

Please note that these figures are rounded to the nearest dollar.

### INTERIM ANSWERS

**81 Mr McCague–Hon Mr Eakins:** Details to answer this question are not available at the present time. The answer should be available on or about 4 July 1989.

**94 to 97 Mr Eves–Hon Mr Peterson:** The information requested will be supplied by Hon. Elinor Caplan in her capacity as vice-chairman of the Premier's Council on Health Strategy. The final answers will be available on or about 5 July 1989.

**98 to 103 Mr Jackson–Hon Mr Ward:** Answers to these questions are not available at this time. Answers will be provided on or about 16 June 1989.

**125 Mrs Marland–Hon Mr Curling:** A consolidated answer is being prepared and will be available on or about 13 July 1989.

**128 to 133 Mr Sterling–Hon Mr Scott:** The ministry requires additional time to prepare the responses. The responses will be submitted on or about 19 June 1989.

**134 Mr Reville–Hon Mrs Caplan:** My ministry is presently reviewing this question and we anticipate a response will be available on or about 5 July 1989.

**145 and 146 Mr Allen–Hon Mr Sweeney:** Full responses cannot be prepared within the time period outlined in standing order 88(d). Full responses will be provided on or about 9 June 1989.

**164 and 165 Mr Sterling–Hon Mr Kwinter:** A final response will be forthcoming on or about 16 June 1989.

**176 Mrs Grier–Hon Mr Bradley:** An answer will be provided by 30 June 1989.

## RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

Sessional paper P-2, re Teachers' Superannuation Act.

**Hon Mr Ward:** The issue of providing a pension based on a "best five" years' service to those who have already retired must be viewed in the context of the overall financial situation of the teachers' pension plan.

Studies have shown that a "best five" recalculation would have considerable cost implications for the teachers' pension funds. Studies have also indicated that such a measure would not provide significant improvements for those who retired prior to 1976 and did not benefit from improved salary conditions and inflation protection.

In 1985 this issue was referred to the Public Sector Pensions Advisory Board, which reviewed the matter and recommended against such a change. Following these recommendations, the government decided that the most effective use of limited resources would be to augment low pensions with an ad hoc increase for teachers who retired prior to 1976. This improvement was implemented in 1987 and has been paid for entirely by the government.

### SCHOOL OPENING AND CLOSING EXERCISES

Sessional paper P-3, re Lord's Prayer.

**Hon Mr Ward:** On 23 September 1988, the Ontario Court of Appeal struck down subsection 28(1) of regulation 262 as an infringement of religious freedom under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The spirit of the decision was that in opening or closing exercises in public schools one religion must not be given a position of primacy and that the content of opening or closing exercises must reflect the multicultural realities and traditions of Ontario society.

The amendments which I announced on 12 January 1989 allow opening or closing exercises to continue in Ontario public elementary and secondary schools in a manner consistent with the spirit of the court's ruling.

The amendments allow the Lord's Prayer to continue to have a place in opening or closing exercises as a reading. However, it may not be given a position of primacy and the collective recitation of a reading from a particular religious tradition can no longer be permitted as such a

practice is not in accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Where a board chooses to offer a balanced selection of readings drawn from secular and scriptural writings, students will benefit from exposure to the social, moral and spiritual traditions representative of Ontario's multicultural society.

The public elementary and secondary schools of Ontario are open and accessible to all on an equal basis irrespective of creed. They are founded on the positive societal values which, in general, Canadians hold and regard as essential to the wellbeing of our society. These values transcend cultures and faiths, reinforce democratic rights and responsibilities, and are based on a fundamental belief in the worth of all persons.

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Sessional paper P-7, re workers' compensation.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act, will result in significant improvements in the Ontario workers' compensation system. The bill does respond to the recent Task Force Report on the Workers' Compensation Board Vocational Rehabilitation Services by providing for timely and effective rehabilitation services. The re-employment obligations placed on employers will assist many more workers return to work more quickly.

The bill also provides for a new dual award approach to compensating injured workers for the impact of a permanent disability resulting from a workplace accident. In addition, the bill makes provision for supplementary benefits for those current recipients of permanent disability awards who are not being compensated adequately.

The bill has already received second reading and has been sent to the standing committee on resources development for its consideration. That consideration is now in process and should be allowed to continue.

### WATER RESOURCES

Sessional paper P-8, re water supplies in Essex-Kent.

**Hon Mr Riddell:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Food established a staff committee last fall to provide guidance on drought management, one

aspect of which is irrigation. This committee is gathering information on the subject and has distributed information at farmers' meetings this spring.

Although present data indicates that irrigation for most crops is not economically viable at current crop prices, the ministry intends to continue to collect information on the problem and apprise the farming community as information becomes available.

This summer the ministry is collecting information on the suitability of soils in Dover township for sub-irrigation. At the same time, a literature review is being conducted to determine available information on water supply requirements, crop water needs, crop response to irrigation, as well as present irrigation technology. The ministry has started to collect the data that is required to respond to the petition but the task is large and initial information indicates that the economics are difficult to justify. So, the ministry cannot, in light of all priorities, give this petition a high priority in management of ministry resources.

### HOME CARE

Sessional paper P-10, re Victorian Order of Nurses.

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** The Victorian Order of Nurses has been a valued provider of nursing services to this ministry's local home care programs for many years. These services have been fully funded, and when a deficit occurred in 1985-86 it was also funded.

In 1988-89, a further deficit estimated by VON to be \$2.5 million was brought to our attention, and I was pleased to announce on 5 May that this deficit will be fully funded.

During 1988, the management consulting firm of Stevenson, Kellogg, Ernst and Whinney conducted, as a joint undertaking of the Ministry of Health and VON Ontario, an operational review of six VON branches. The report on this project made a number of recommendations to improve operational linkages and long-term funding arrangements between the two parties and outlined opportunities to improve efficiencies within the VON. Ministry staff are currently working with VON Ontario to implement these recommendations. In the meantime, discussions related to satisfactory funding arrangements for the current year are in progress.

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS\*

(130 seats)

Second Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- 
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)  
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)  
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)  
 Beer, Charles (York North L)  
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)  
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)  
**Bradley, Hon James J.**, Minister of the Environment (St Catharines L)  
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)  
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)  
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)  
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)  
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)  
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)  
**Caplan, Hon Elinor**, Minister of Health (Orillia L)  
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)  
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)  
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)  
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)  
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)  
**Conway, Hon Sean G.**, Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)  
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)  
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)  
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)  
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)  
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)  
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)  
**Curling, Hon Alvin**, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)  
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)  
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St Catharines-Brock L)  
**Eakins, Hon John F.**, Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)  
**Edighoffer, Hon Hugh A.**, Speaker (Perth L)  
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)  
**Elston, Hon Murray J.**, Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Financial Institutions (Bruce L)  
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)  
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)  
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)  
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)  
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)  
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)  
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)  
**Fontaine, Hon René**, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)  
**Fulton, Hon Ed**, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)  
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)  
**Grandmaître, Hon Bernard C.**, Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)  
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)  
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)  
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)  
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)  
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)  
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)  
**Hošek, Hon Chaviva**, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)  
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)  
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)  
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)  
 Kanter, Ron (St Andrew-St Patrick L)  
**Kerrio, Hon Vincent G.**, Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)  
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)  
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)  
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)  
**Kwinter, Hon Monte**, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)  
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 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)  
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**Scott, Hon Ian G.**, Attorney General and acting Solicitor General and minister responsible for native affairs (St George-St David L)  
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**Wrye, Hon William**, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

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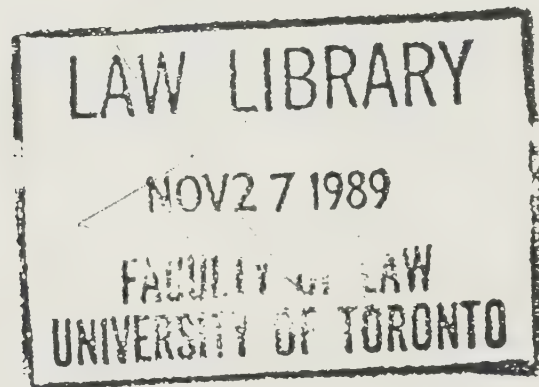
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# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Second Session, 34th Parliament  
Monday, 12 June 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, 12 June 1989

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### STANDING ORDERS

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** I think it is important to look at a couple of the issues that have led us to the point where the government has brought in unilateral changes to our rules to make this place an undemocratic institution in Ontario.

First of all, the Sunday shopping issue: If members recall, the former Solicitor General, Joan Smith, signed a unanimous report that called for the maintenance of the status quo and in the 1987 election the Premier said he had absolutely no intention of changing the law.

Then the government got its majority and completely flip-flopped on the issue. In other words, they said one thing during an election and another thing after. Obviously it was the opposition's job, role and responsibility to hold the government accountable for that flip-flop no matter what the means would be.

On the Smith affair, when the then Solicitor General went and visited the Lucan police station a few weeks ago, it obviously was the opposition's responsibility and role to hold the government accountable and to impose decent standards on the cabinet of this province, because the Premier obviously had no intention of doing it at all. He thought that because of his majority and his arrogance he could get through it and the opposition be damned.

The government wants to avoid accountability by making this place undemocratic. This is a big, arrogant government and we simply will not let it get away with these types of activities. We have offered for quite some time to negotiate rule changes in a nonpartisan, three-party approach.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. The member's time has expired.

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** That is how it has been done in the past and that is how it should be done now.

**Mr Sterling:** I rise today to voice my concern over the disintegration of the parliamentary system in Ontario. The limitation imposed upon the opposition parties under the proposed changes to the standing orders by the government

House leader amounts to nothing more than a virtual dictatorship of this assembly.

Since 1985 all parties in this Legislature have been working together in good faith to bring about changes to the standing orders. Two reports have been produced, yet they have gone unnoticed and ignored by the government. Yet there was no consultation with respect to this government edict. There was no negotiation. There was simply a cabinet commandment designed to reduce the embarrassment and damage to its own members and appointees by preventing the opposition from exposing this government's overwhelming incompetence.

The government is well aware that the only tool of an opposition party in a majority Parliament is one of delay. This Parliament has not been stalled because of a lack of responsibility on the part of the opposition. Parliament has been stalled because we have a Premier (Mr Peterson) who does not understand his role and the role of his ministers. Parliament has been stalled because of a lack of consultation with the opposition parties, because of a poorly defined agenda and because of ill-drafted legislation.

The government's motion only exemplifies its arrogance.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

**Mr Faubert:** Last Tuesday, 6 June, along with my legislative colleagues from Scarborough, I attended the launching ceremony for the city of Scarborough's blue box recycling program. Today, as I speak, over 100,000 blue boxes are being delivered to home owners across the city of Scarborough.

As a long-time, and sometimes impatient supporter of recycling, I am pleased that Scarborough has finally joined the other five Metro municipalities in implementing the blue box program.

I must commend this government's Ministry of the Environment for its consistent efforts to assist and encourage municipalities across the province in establishing recycling programs. Indeed, the ministry is contributing approximately \$1.3 million to this particular project. Since 1985 this government has increased funding tenfold for household recycling.

That is not all. Members of this Legislature can look forward to further initiatives of the Ministry of the Environment to bring other aspects of recycling on stream. I support and encourage the minister as he endeavours to have the blue box program extended to apartment dwellers. Members of this Legislature may know that organic wastes make up nearly one third of total household waste volumes.

The minister has indicated his commitment to contribute to a program providing home composting units to home owners and assisting municipalities in setting up collection systems and communal composting facilities. In Metro, Etobicoke is leading the way by its initiation of a program of composting starting this month.

I am pleased to say that our government continues to demonstrate its commitment to promoting the 4R program of reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery, to move us from a consumer throwaway to a conserver society.

#### STANDING ORDERS

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** Last week the government House leader outraged those of us here who are concerned about the unparalleled notion that a government could, on its own, change the rules in this place because of what he considered obstruction by the members opposite, and it was triggered, as you may know, Mr Speaker, by the time you named the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr Kormos) and we appealed your ruling.

I would like to bring to the attention of members of this House that on 11 June 1981 Stuart Smith was named in this House. The naming by the Speaker was appealed by one Robert Nixon at that time. Before the vote was taken, it took over an hour of bell ringing by the Liberal Party. At that point Mr Nixon, Mr Conway and Mr Peterson entered this House and they voted against the Speaker that day, just as we did here.

I would just say to the members opposite, before they try to fool the people by changing the rules of this House—like the anti-Magna Carta-ites that they are—with the dictatorship that they want to bring in and all the dangers that are involved in that, they should remember their own actions in this House. These things will come back to show them up for what they are, a power-hungry majority that wants to inflict its will on this Legislature.

**The Speaker:** Order. The member's time has expired. The member for Mississauga South.

**Mrs Marland:** Racism has been defined as society's gravest threat to society—

Interjections.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** It was Mr Nixon who gave us the precedent and Mr Conway who voted for it.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mrs Marland:** Mr Speaker, with respect, could I start at my full time?

**The Speaker:** Agreed?

Agreed to.

1340

#### RACE RELATIONS

**Mrs Marland:** Racism has been defined as society's gravest threat to society, the maximum of hatred for a minimum of reason. The events this past weekend, in which a North York synagogue and school were defaced in what is being described as the worst case of ethnic vandalism in years, serve as a stark reminder of the sorry truth of that observation.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sense of personal outrage at this racist attack and my hope that the perpetrators will be caught and brought to justice. As legislators we have a responsibility to make it clear that this type of despicable activity will not be tolerated in our society and that we will not sit by and allow hatemongers to threaten the rights or demean the values of any of our fellow citizens.

Moral indignation alone, however, is not an effective response to mindless bigotry. Our noble sentiments must be supported by the legal, educational and community initiatives required to combat the malignancies of racism and anti-Semitism. I know that all members would want to express their support for the people of the community victimized by this reprehensible act and to take advantage of this sad event to renew our commitment to the creation of an equitable and tolerant society.

#### CARABRAM

**Mr Callahan:** Once again that very fortunate time has rolled around when the city of Brampton will be celebrating a multicultural event that is first and foremost in the province: Carabram. It will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 7, 8 and 9 July.

I invite all members of the assembly and anyone out there watching us on television to attend this event. It is an opportunity to travel to 17 specific lands to savour the sights, sounds and

tastes of those lands without ever leaving Brampton.

I can indicate to the House that the Minister of Citizenship (Mr Phillips) has been kind enough to host a reception here at Queen's Park on Monday, 19 June, from 5:30 to 7:30. I wish to express on his behalf an invitation to all members of the Legislature to attend that celebration, to have an opportunity to get some idea about what goes on and see some of the costumes of the countries that are represented at Carabram.

Brampton is probably one of the largest ethnic communities in Canada. As a result of this celebration each year, we have an opportunity to get to know one another and, through understanding, to avoid some of the problems that have occurred in other countries and other parts of the world. I invite members to attend these festival functions in Brampton on 7, 8 and 9 July and most specifically to join us on 19 June for the Carabram reception.

**The Speaker:** There are just four seconds left.

Interjection.

**The Speaker:** The member might want to wait and use the full 90 seconds. That completes the allotted time for members' statements.

#### PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

**The Speaker:** This might be an appropriate time for me to remind members that the traditions and customs of this House have been that when members are rising to speak, they should address their comments through the chair. Also, when they are referring to other members they should refer to them by their riding or ministry rather than by their surname.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

##### USE OF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION'S FUNDS

**Hon Mr Scott:** As acting Solicitor General, I wish to inform the Legislature of the actions taken by the government today to ensure a full and comprehensive investigation into any allegations regarding Patricia Starr. As members will be aware, authority to investigate the allegations that have been made is shared by a number of independent public bodies. The public trustee, for example, has been investigating the expenditure of funds by the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section. The Commission on Election Finances has the responsibility to investigate any breaches of the Election Finances Reform Act. The conflict-of-interest commissioner has full authority to investigate

any conflicts of interest regarding members of this assembly.

The government is determined that there will be a full and comprehensive investigation with a mandate to inquire into all aspects of these allegations. Therefore, I have today asked the commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police to conduct a comprehensive investigation into contributions and expenditures made by Mrs Starr in connection with her activities with the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada.

I have also appointed Peter Griffiths, the crown attorney in Etobicoke, to serve as special crown prosecutor in the matter. Mr Griffiths will act as a legal adviser on an ongoing basis to the police investigators.

The Ontario Provincial Police and the special prosecutor will have full authority to determine whether there have been breaches of the criminal law or any other provincial statute. The police investigators will co-ordinate with the public trustee, the Commission on Election Finances and the conflict-of-interest commissioner, as well as with federal authorities, in determining the scope of their investigation.

Once the police investigators have completed their work, they will determine if there is any basis for the laying of criminal or other charges. In addition, the investigators will provide a full report of all the facts of the matter to the public trustee, the Commission on Election Finances and the conflict-of-interest commissioner.

These three public bodies exercise independent authority conferred under statute passed by this assembly. The election finances commission, chaired by a former member of this Legislature, Donald MacDonald, has responsibility to ensure compliance with provincial electoral laws by political parties, constituency associations, candidates and leadership contestants.

The conflict-of-interest commissioner, Chief Justice Gregory Evans, is responsible for ensuring that all members of the assembly comply with the Members' Conflict of Interest Act, 1988. These public authorities will determine whether any charges or other proceedings should be initiated regarding any aspect of this matter. In accordance with their responsibility as officers of the assembly, the election finances commission and the conflict-of-interest commissioner will make a full accounting of the facts and their findings to this Legislature. The public trustee will report his findings in accordance with his responsibilities and as permitted under the Public Trustee Act.

The government believes that nothing is more important to democratic government than the integrity of our electoral process. A critical component of this is confidence in the proper expenditure of public and charitable funds. The actions announced by the government today reflect our commitment to these principles and our determination to uphold and defend them. I have full confidence in the ability of the police as well as these other public authorities to ensure a full and comprehensive investigation of the matter.

### JUSTICE SYSTEM

**Hon Mr Scott:** Last week I had the opportunity to discuss with the Attorney General of Canada and the provincial attorneys general matters which have long been a concern for the people of Ontario. I am greatly heartened by the lengthy discussions and eventual unanimous agreement that resulted on items such as the Young Offenders Act and court reform. I would like to take this opportunity to briefly update the House on the discussions.

As members well know, over the past four years this government has asked for changes in the Young Offenders Act. At past meetings I have indicated that there should be more flexibility in the sentencing of young offenders accused of serious crimes such as murder, and that transfers to adult court in the case of serious crimes should be made easier.

Under the current legislation, the maximum sentence that a young offender can receive in youth court is three years. In some cases this may be too lenient a penalty, and provision is made for transfer of such cases to adult court. However, our judges have been reluctant to transfer murder cases to adult court because the minimum sentence for murder in adult court is 25 years.

This government has consistently advocated that the solution to this problem is to reduce this disparity between a maximum of three and a minimum of 25 by allowing a judge a more appropriate range of penalties to impose on a young offender charged with murder.

1350

I am pleased to report that at our meeting the provincial attorneys general unanimously agreed that the sentence for a young person convicted of murder in youth court should be a maximum of three years' custody to be followed by a conditional release for a period of two years less a day. As I already mentioned, under the current

law a young person can receive only the maximum of three years.

In addition, under the present act, if a person is tried in adult court and convicted of first degree murder, he must receive life imprisonment and is not eligible for parole for 25 years. The provincial attorneys general unanimously recommended to the Attorney General of Canada that a young person convicted of murder in adult court should be eligible for parole, fixed by the trial judge, at a period between five and 10 years inclusive.

My provincial colleagues and I also addressed the issue of transferring a young offender from youth court by requesting a change to the test used when a judge hears a transfer application. Under the Young Offenders Act the paramount consideration is the interest of the young person, whereas the provincial attorneys general urged that the paramount consideration, consideration having been given to the interest of the young person, be the protection of society.

I am pleased that the Attorney General of Canada, in his first meeting with us, listened carefully to these views and agreed to review these matters over the summer in order to introduce legislative amendments in the fall.

Another area that greatly concerns Ontario is the manner in which cost-sharing programs are developed for federal legislation such as the Young Offenders Act and Bill C-89, the recent federal victims-of-crime statute. These programs impose a financial burden on the provinces as a result of their responsibility under the constitution for the administration of justice. The Attorney General of Canada, after some straight talk, now recognizes this fact and has agreed to consult with the provinces and provide a cost analysis of any future criminal justice amendment to be introduced in the federal Parliament.

Aside from the Young Offenders Act and cost-sharing concerns, I shared with my provincial and federal colleagues Ontario's plan for reforming its trial court system. I am pleased to report that there was considerable interest in this initiative with respect to phase 1, which is incorporated into Bill 2 currently before the House. The Attorney General of Canada assured me that phase 1 will receive the federal government's attention at the earliest opportunity.

With respect to phase 2 and the establishment of a single criminal trial and family division, a number of other provinces, together with the Attorney General of Canada, expressed an interest in examining the proposal, and I look

forward to further discussions with them in the near future.

These are only the highlights of a three-day meeting which addressed other items, such as the Divorce Act and aboriginal criminal justice. I believe that the federal government, the provinces and the two territories found the meeting productive and we all hope to soon see concrete evidence of our work.

## RESPONSES

### USE OF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION'S FUNDS

**Mr B. Rae:** I obviously regard the statement by the acting Solicitor General (Mr Scott) with respect to the investigation into allegations concerning Patricia Starr as long overdue. Last week, the Premier (Mr Peterson) was quoted in the *Globe and Mail* on 7 June as saying about the allegations, "Frankly, some aren't correct but perhaps some are." Of all the dumb comments that have been made by the Premier of this province, that is perhaps the dumbest that I have heard.

It is long overdue that this series of allegations, which are enormously important in terms of public trust—of all the responsibilities one has in society, the trustees of a trust, those who are put in a position of trust, and I include public officials in this regard, are among the most important. If there has been any diversion of charitable funds, or potentially charitable funds, into partisan political purposes and into the work of political lobbying, that is obviously something which is worthy of investigation and something which simply has to be rooted out and thoroughly investigated by public authorities.

I think the public has seen over the last number of days a sense that not only has this government lost its way but also has literally been buffeted and tossed in this storm of political controversy, one which I would regard is at the heart of the problems facing the Liberal Party at this time.

Obviously, I will have some questions of the Premier—I hope he will be here today—with regard to comments that he has made and investigations which he apparently has commenced out of his own office into certain allegations regarding the conduct of certain offices. Since he has launched those, I will be asking questions about them, but I can only say that this comprehensive investigation into the allegations which have now been a matter of public record for several weeks is long overdue.

## JUSTICE SYSTEM

**Mr B. Rae:** I might add a brief comment on the statement made by the Attorney General (Mr Scott).

Just to comment parenthetically, since he received his new appointment while I was away last week, I can well recall comments made by Liberals in opposition as to the utter inappropriateness of Roy McMurtry occupying both the offices of Solicitor General and Attorney General. I heard such distinguished members of the bar as Mr Breithaupt and Mr Singer complaining about the administration of justice, saying that one could not have the person responsible for the administration of the police and the person responsible for the administration of justice in the same person. But now the transformation is complete and the Liberals have done precisely the same thing.

On a preliminary basis—and we have only a preliminary report from the Attorney General—I think we all recognize that, with regard to allegations of murder against young offenders, the Young Offenders Act has got to be revised, and I think the consensus that has been developed is one that we will all want to work on and work with.

In listening to the Attorney General when he says, "The Attorney General of Canada assured me that phase I will receive the federal government's attention at the earliest opportunity," that sounds an awful lot like a kiss-off to me. That sounds like something the Attorney General would say to us when we ask him to do certain things.

When he says that "we all hope to soon see concrete evidence of our work," I can only say that we all look forward to seeing some achievements, some laws changed and court reform actually happening, something that we can point to in the Divorce Act, aboriginal criminal justice, something that we can point to in terms of real achievements for people, because I would say that there have been precious few coming from this government for which the people of Ontario had such high hopes just a short four years ago.

### USE OF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION'S FUNDS

**Mr Brandt:** I want to respond to the comment of the acting Solicitor General (Mr Scott) in connection with the Patricia Starr matter, which is obviously becoming an increasingly awkward situation for the government to handle. His statement today does not come as a surprise

because it follows, in fact, the way in which his government has dealt with this type of issue since the very time that it took office: namely, to run behind an Ontario Provincial Police investigation in connection with matters of this type, which are highly charged politically, and to keep those reports in a separate OPP area for a long period of time before they ever come to light in terms of the information.

I would say to the acting Solicitor General that there is another route that he could have followed, not only this time but in times past, and that is for an all-party committee of this Legislature to look at these allegations, along with the election finances commissioner, to determine whether there were any improprieties committed by the individual in question.

What concerns us is that for some number of weeks now this government has been very much aware of the allegations as they relate to the improprieties of this particular appointee of his government and has taken absolutely no action. In fact, it is a very surprising fact that the Premier (Mr Peterson) attempted to talk Mrs Starr out of resigning from her position as chairman of Ontario Place.

It is a strange, strange set of circumstances when a deputy minister of this government, under allegations of improper educational standards on his particular curriculum vitae, was asked the next day to resign from his position. It took 24 hours in the case of a deputy minister, but in the case of an overt and very direct political appointment, now a number of weeks have passed and we are going to pass this thing over to the OPP. It is too little too late, and it is not the right route to go.

1400

**Mr Runciman:** Also in response to the acting Solicitor General's statement, I think we on this side, at least in this party, have mixed feelings in respect to the announcement.

I guess one has to be suspicious that this is perhaps nothing more than damage control on the part of the government and an effort to hide behind a police investigation. Those concerns have to be there, based on the response the government had in respect to the concerns about the acting Solicitor General's predecessor and, in effect, the stonewalling that occurred, the effort to hide behind a police investigation that we were told was secret and could not be made public knowledge.

There is also a comment, on page 3 of the acting Solicitor General's statement, in respect to the investigators providing a full report of facts to

the other bodies engaged in separate investigations: the public trustee, the election expenses commissioner and the conflict-of-interest commissioner.

This continues to raise concerns, if indeed those three agencies or commissions are going to be somewhat restrained from making any final resolution in respect to the activities of Ms Starr, in respect to her responsibilities as chairman of the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada.

Another aspect of Ms Starr's activities that we have expressed concern about is her tenure as chairman of Ontario Place. My party has raised a number of serious issues and serious questions, to which we have not received adequate answers up to this point in time.

When one looks at the allegations made in respect to Ms Starr's responsibilities with the Council of Jewish Women, I think that adds more validity to the concerns that we have been bringing forward in terms of her tenure, some of the very questionable activities that took place during her time as chairman of Ontario Place.

This really boils down, in our view, to a question of the Premier's conduct. My leader raised the question of his urging Ms Starr to stay on despite allegations; of his urging of the member for London South (Mrs E. J. Smith) to stay on; of the Premier's standards and the Premier's judgement.

A great many questions remain, and I want to assure the House that they will be asked. We are not going to be stonewalled by this effort and this announcement by the acting Solicitor General today. We are going to continue to forge ahead. Simply announcing a police investigation is not going to allow the government to avoid dealing with this issue in the House.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### USE OF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION'S FUNDS

**Mr B. Rae:** I have some questions for the Premier. Last week, the question of Mrs Starr's involvement in fund-giving to various members of his cabinet and various members of his caucus was raised in this House.

Outside this House, the Premier said—and I am quoting words which he apparently gave, which were quoted by the *Globe and Mail* on 7 June, the middle of last week—"Frankly, some aren't correct but perhaps some are." I was intrigued as I read those remarks, wondering what would lead the Premier of the province, who has consistently said he does not know anything about them, to

state so categorically that some of the allegations that have been made, to his knowledge, are not correct.

I wonder if the Premier can perhaps explain what he meant when he said that some are not correct. Which of the allegations that have been made with regard to Mrs Starr are not correct and upon what basis would the Premier have made that statement to the Globe and Mail?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I have read about a number of allegations and, to the extent that it is possible, one tries to determine the truth or lack thereof of some of these allegations. There was an allegation about who was a fund-raiser for the party, people I had never heard of before. So those kind of things, to the best of my knowledge, were untrue.

That being said, the whole object of the police investigation is to get to all of the facts. It is my view that all of the facts must be investigated and if there is anything improper, it must be dealt with. That is why we want this comprehensive investigation into all of the facts.

As my honourable friend knows, there are rumours daily in this business about a lot of things, but every single rumour or allegation that is made will be tracked down and we will determine the veracity thereof and deal with it.

**Mr B. Rae:** I am intrigued again by the first part of the Premier's answer, where he attempted to answer my question. If I can give him one example of one specific allegation, I wonder if he can outline for the House precisely when he first heard of the allegation with regard to an excessive contribution to the riding association of which his Minister of Culture and Communications, the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms Oddie Munro) is a member.

When did he first hear of that allegation and what steps did he take to investigate that allegation? In particular, has he had any conversations with the member for Hamilton Centre about those particular allegations?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I cannot be precise, but I think it was around February that the party was checking the receipts. Someone in my office was told that there may have been some problem with the receipting. That was turned over to the Commission on Election Finances. I am told the police were called in after that. Whether in fact there was some other account or bank account—the police have been investigating that ever since.

**Mr B. Rae:** The report in the newspaper today about the Ontario Provincial Police investigation into the contribution to Hamilton Centre states

that Mr McCauley, who is the executive assistant to the executive director, Mr Ashworth—it is my understanding that that is how he is listed in the government's directory—was instrumental in helping to find the missing cheques which apparently had disappeared into thin air. Miraculously, when he got on the case he was able to gumshoe those cheques down.

I want to ask the Premier if he would be prepared to table any reports he has received from Mr McCauley with respect to those missing cheques.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I am not aware of any reports from Mr McCauley in that regard. As I understand, it was turned over to the election expenses commission, but obviously, all of that will be turned over to the OPP and if there is anything improper it will be dealt with, and very severely.

#### CONDUCT OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Mr B. Rae:** The acting Solicitor General (Mr Scott) said in his statement today, "This government believes that nothing is more important to democratic government than the integrity of our electoral process." I am sure those are words which all of us would heartily endorse.

With that in mind, I ask the Premier when he saw the allegation—I am assuming he saw it, since I know he reads the papers—that the Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms Oddie Munro), when asked by Ms Starr whether she knew of anyone who would be interested in mailing out a survey, offered the services of her own mother for a sum of some \$5,000, did the Premier condone that action by the Minister of Culture and Communications?

In particular, since the government apparently thinks that nothing is more important than the integrity of our electoral process, has he discussed this matter at any time with the Minister of Culture and Communications and told her precisely what he, the Premier of the province, feels about the integrity of our process and whether he thinks this is something that reflects the integrity and standards of his government?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Yes, indeed, I discussed that late last week with the minister when I became aware of it and I understand this matter has been turned over to the conflict-of-interest commissioner.

**Mr B. Rae:** Since the Premier has told us he discussed it with the minister, I wonder if he can tell us what he said, what her response to him was and what he now intends to do with regard to her future presence in his cabinet?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** It is exactly as I have said to my honourable friend: It has been turned over to the conflict-of-interest commissioner who will determine all the facts and report back.

**Mr B. Rae:** Here we go again. The Premier is saying: "You have to be a crook. In order to break my standards, you have to have broken a law."

I specifically want to ask the Premier, regardless of what the conflict-of-interest law says, as the Premier of this province, to tell us what his personal standards with regard to members of his cabinet are.

How does he feel about members of his cabinet, on being asked by a charitable organization to recommend someone who can mail a survey, saying: "Well, what do you know. My mother would be more than pleased to do that for a mere \$5,000"? Is that David Peterson's personal moral standard when it comes to the conduct of members of his cabinet? Yes or no?

**The Speaker:** Order. Just before I recognize the Premier, I again say that we try to recognize and ask questions not using the member's surname.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I have turned it over to the conflict commissioner, as I said. I will determine all the facts and I will make the judgements based on the facts, not on allegations.

1410

#### USE OF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION'S FUNDS

**Mr Brandt:** I want to address a question to the Premier on the same matter. The Premier was aware of certain allegations in regard to these campaign contributions, in particular back in February, and members of his staff were also aware that the Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms Oddie Munro) had, it had been alleged, received certain contributions from what we understand is a charitable fund.

In the last 10 days, the Premier has learned of other improper donations that were made by Ms Starr to other members of his government and still the only response we get from the Premier is that he has turned this over to a quasi-independent body to investigate the matter, without the Premier himself taking any action whatever with respect to the conduct of these individuals. Does the Premier not feel an obligation to make a decision on these matters in regard to these particular very strong specific allegations?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** What has happened I take very, very seriously. I am aware of a number of

allegations, some substantiated, some not substantiated. That being said, it is our responsibility to determine the facts pertaining to every single allegation.

There are rumours in the papers, as my honourable friend knows, of improper donations to our party and to his party, municipally, federally and a lot of other areas. I think it is incumbent upon me to determine the facts. Those facts should be there for all to see, and I will make the judgements on the basis of the facts. I think that is exactly what we are doing at the present time.

**Mr Brandt:** The Premier again says some of the allegations are in fact correct and some of them are incorrect. We have been attempting in this House to ascertain which of those allegations are incorrect so that accepting him at his word, we can dispose of those and deal with those that are correct. I ask the Premier again, in light of the fact that the member for St Andrew-St Patrick (Mr Kanter) as well as the Minister of Culture and Communications is alleged to have received campaign donations, does the Premier not feel some obligation in recognizing his position in order to restore public confidence in what is a difficult matter?

I fully appreciate the fact that there are times when on occasion these kinds of contributions may not in all instances be known to the particular member in question, but once having been brought to light, they should be investigated. Has the Premier had an opportunity to investigate these allegations and determine himself directly whether they are true or untrue and which ones are on which side of the ledger?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Frankly, I am not in a position on my own to determine whether these allegations are true or not true. I am aware of a number, as my honourable friend knows. To the best of my knowledge, I know some allegations written in the newspaper are not correct, but I cannot deny that some may very well be. Our obligation is to look at all the facts and that is why the police have been brought in, as an independent, impartial group to look at all the facts surrounding these matters.

As the member knows, the public trustee is looking at the matters pertaining to the trustee and the integrity of the fund, as are a number of other groups such as the Commission on Election Finances, which is an independent group chaired by Donald MacDonald, a former member of this House. He will look at it from his responsibility and give us the benefit of his judgements. He will do that without fear or favour, I am sure.

**Mr Brandt:** In the very first paragraph of the very first annual report produced by Ontario Place following the appointment of Ms Starr to that position, she made some very distasteful, partisan comments in connection with the election of the Premier's government. Further to that, we have Ms Starr now being alleged to have made contributions from what is very obviously a charitable fund to a number of cabinet ministers and members of his government. Why would the Premier not, on the basis of the performance of this particular individual, demand that person's resignation, frankly some weeks ago, let alone today?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** She has resigned from the post and contrary to popular opinion, nobody asked her to stay on. The member should not ask me to justify this one.

**Mr Brandt:** Well, perhaps at another time, in another forum, the Premier may want to clarify what he just said about popular opinion.

#### CONDUCT OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Mr Brandt:** I would like to address my question, if I might, to the Minister of Culture and Communications. It has been alleged through media reports, particularly those in the *Globe and Mail* that she did in fact receive, in excess of the maximum allowable under the law, funds for contribution purposes from Ms Starr and from the charitable fund we have been talking about. It has also been alleged the Premier's office has known about this matter since February. Could she give us the background and the details with respect to these contributions to her campaign fund?

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** In February, I received an inquiry from a reporter from the *Globe and Mail* asking whether I knew or had any information about two cheques that were reported to have been donated to the Hamilton Centre riding association. I told her I would turn the matter over to my president, which I did. He subsequently informed the Ontario Liberal Party. Also, subsequent to that the whole matter was turned over the Commission on Election Finances.

**Mr Brandt:** The minister's campaign received a contribution of some \$350 in 1988, I believe it was. Forgive me if the date is wrong, but the amount of \$350 was contributed to her campaign. It then followed that instead of one charitable contribution receipt for \$350, there were 10 receipts issued in the amount of \$35 each. Is she aware of that, and if so, what action did she take upon finding out about it?

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** Any inquiries I have received reporting irregularities I have turned over to the riding association. They have investigated and any such matter has been turned over to the election finances commission.

**Mr Brandt:** It is not very enlightening, but perhaps we could pursue the matter of the additional \$5,000 for the work that was carried out by a member of the minister's family in connection with some mailing.

Could the minister perhaps advise this House of the conversation that ensued between her and Ms Starr relative to the availability of the minister's mother to mail out some material, a survey I believe, for the stipend of some \$5,000? Was she a party to that? Did she recommend her mother and was there someone else who perhaps might have been available for that job? Did she make any other suggestions in regard to who might have been available and who might have needed that particular work at that time?

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** I simply responded to an inquiry from Ms Starr whether I knew someone who would be able to do that kind of work. I responded that I knew of several people, one of whom was my mother and I simply left it at that.

**Mr B. Rae:** I was listening carefully to the minister's answer. I would like to ask her to follow on from that. She admits she gave her mother's name, among those of a number of other candidates, to Ms Starr. Can she tell us precisely when she realized that Ms Starr had in fact awarded the contract to her mother and how she felt about that?

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** I was aware the contract had been awarded when I read of the story in the newspaper.

**Mr B. Rae:** Perhaps the minister could tell us how she felt at that point about the fact the contract had been awarded and how she felt about the fact that if it had not been for the minister's own intervention, Ms Starr would never have known of the interest the minister's mother had in receiving such a contract.

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** All of us take very seriously any allegations of ill conduct, wrongdoing or inappropriate behaviour. I have referred the matter to the conflict-of-interest commissioner. As I said to the House on Thursday, I am not aware of any conflict.

1420

#### ONTARIO PLACE

**Mr Runciman:** I would like to direct my question to the Premier. It deals with the

activities of Ms Starr during her tenure as chairman of Ontario Place. The Premier may be aware that a number of questions were raised with respect to her activities during the last year with respect to the awarding of contracts, etc., without going to tender.

I wonder if the Premier would indicate to the House today whether he is prepared to accept the recommendation from my party that the Provincial Auditor take a look at the Ontario Place operations during Ms Starr's tenure as chairman.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Absolutely. I think it is a very good idea. I think there should be a thorough analysis of all aspects of Ontario Place, of all contracts awarded under whatever circumstances and it should be discussed by the committee.

**Mr Runciman:** That is a very positive response. I am pleased to hear it.

I hope the Premier will also confirm that we talked about a number of things occurring during her tenure. One was the closed-door meeting about the future of Ontario Place. Certainly we raised the question of who was in attendance during that meeting, the fact that a number of tenders were called or were not called and contracts issued for the operations of restaurants during Ms Starr's phase that indeed did not follow the normal course of dealing with this sort of thing. Of course, questions have also been raised about the spouse of the Minister of Housing (Ms Hošek) as well with respect to the issuance of contracts to that individual.

I hope, as he indicated in his answer, that the Premier can also assure us with regard to the issues that I have raised there will be no limitations placed upon the scope of the investigation by the Provincial Auditor.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** None.

#### LAND REGISTRATION

**Mr Owen:** I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. The minister might recall that on a number of occasions I have brought to his attention the difficult situation in the registry office in Barrie which looks after the county of Simcoe.

In the past five years, the volume at that registry office has almost doubled because of the growth in that county. The building in which it is housed has other offices, but that particular space itself at the registry office is still the same, which means it is being stretched beyond the limit for the people who work there, both the staff of the registry office and those who have to go in to be served by it.

I appreciate, because of the suggestions made to the minister, that he has endeavoured to do certain things with the staff and improved certain equipment. However—

**The Speaker:** The question?

**Mr Owen:** —the situation is still not good. The lineups are still there. My question to the minister is, what is being done to help alleviate that situation?

**Hon Mr Wrye:** The honourable member is correct. He has raised this matter with me privately on a number of occasions and I believe publicly in this House before. We have had a number of meetings with a number of the service providers in the area. I believe the honourable member and his staff have been involved in a couple of those meetings.

There is no doubt we face the challenge of growth in the Barrie area and in the Simcoe area generally. This office is now the sixth largest in terms of volume of our 65 land registry offices in Ontario. That is a great deal of growth in just a few years.

We have instituted a number of reforms such as a new telephone system and a whole series of high technology improvements, including a number of pilot projects and all of those have begun to turn around the delay levels and the backlog, which had grown quite large.

Finally, the member is correct. While we have had this growth in the volume of work, we have had no growth in the office and are actively seeking additional office space for the land registry office in Barrie.

**Mr Owen:** I appreciate what the minister has been doing in this situation. Be that as it may, we still have situations where if a title searcher wants to use the day book, he has to get in line for a procedure that normally would take a few minutes and now sometimes takes hours. The same thing applies for registering documents. There are huge lineups. The work is not getting done properly or efficiently. The lawyers and title searchers are worried that errors are going to be made, sometimes costly errors. I appreciate what is being done but the lineups are still there.

**The Speaker:** The question?

**Mr Owen:** I am asking the minister, can more be done or what is he proposing be done by way of more?

**Hon Mr Wrye:** I want to agree with the honourable member that there is still some way to go before we can see the kind of improvements that will get things in the Barrie office back to

normal. It has been a very difficult challenge in one of the areas of highest growth in Ontario.

I can say that one change is taking place the honourable member would want to be aware of, and that is that we are in the process of adding a total of 10 new permanent positions to that office. By way of giving the member an idea of the impact of that, it means the number of permanent positions will go up almost 50 per cent, from 23 as it was before the hiring began to a total of 33.

We have additionally had a number of contract staff in on short-term contracts and we are attempting to make some improvements there. Those, along with the technological improvements and a number of other efforts that are now under way, I hope will begin to address the challenge. In any event, we have had meetings with the client group in the area. The latest was in early May. We have taken a number of their suggestions away and will attempt to respond to them.

#### CONDUCT OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Mr B. Rae:** I want to ask the Premier again some questions about the conduct, in this instance, of the Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms Oddie Munro). That minister has admitted in this House today, in response to questions, that she gave Ms Starr the name of her own mother as the potential recipient of a \$5,000 contract. On Thursday, the minister said in response to questions from my colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr Reville) that she was not aware of any conflict in the situation and she repeated that comment twice.

Regardless of what Mr Justice Evans says about any technical breaches of the conflict-of-interest legislation, I want to ask the Premier this specific question: Instead of parking his conscience with Mr Justice Evans, why is he incapable of answering a simple question? Does he think it is appropriate for any members of his cabinet to be referring their parents, brothers or their sisters to organizations with which they have a relationship in terms of funding? Does the Premier think that is appropriate or right—

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr B. Rae:** —regardless of whether it is in breach of the conflict legislation?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I am in the process of determining all the facts. I will get advice from the conflict commissioner and then I will make a judgement on it.

**Mr B. Rae:** The facts are known. The minister today has stated publicly in this House what those

facts are. She has stated the response to a question from Ms Starr, "Do you know anybody who does this kind of work?" The member has just told us what she said. She said, "Yes, I do." She gave a number of names including the name of her own mother.

I am asking the Premier of this province to answer a very simple question about his moral standards, not the legal standards of Mr Justice Evans but the moral standards of the Premier. Does he regard it as appropriate, on the basis of the information revealed today in this House by his own minister, that she should stay in the cabinet? Is that the Premier's standard of conduct?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I have answered the question of my honourable friend as best I can.

**The Speaker:** New question, the member for Nipissing.

**Hon Mr Scott:** The third leadership candidate is up.

**Mr Harris:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Thanks very much to the Attorney General, the acting Solicitor General et al.

1430

#### HIRING OF RESEARCH OFFICER

**Mr Harris:** I have a question for the Minister of Housing about the hiring of another ministry official with direct ties to the Liberal Party. I am referring to David Michener, former political assistant to the Minister of Culture and Communications, who describes himself as a "very dear friend" of Patricia Starr.

I understand this person was put on a public payroll with a 12-month contract after the last election. Would the minister tell us who approved the contract, when she first knew about the hiring and how much he was paid?

**Hon Ms Hošek:** I first learned that Mr Michener worked for the Ministry of Housing when I read about it in the paper this morning. I asked my staff to give me the information of the sort the member has asked about. This is what I have found out: Mr Michener was a research officer in the building branch of my ministry from 8 February 1988 to 31 March 1989, which was about 13 months. His annual salary was in the range of \$40,400 to \$49,400, which is the range for such a position.

**Mr Harris:** It is my understanding that Mr Michener was in fact hired as an unclassified public servant. According to the Management Board of Cabinet Directives, "Unclassified service refers to those positions to which people

are appointed by a minister." I am assuming that is the Minister of Housing.

Unlike Dino Chiesa, whose contract award violated Management Board directives, this well-known Liberal consultant was appointed under the directives by the authority of the minister. In doing so, I would suggest, the minister completely bypassed Management Board rules that stipulate that former officials cannot be given contracts within a year of leaving government positions.

I would like to ask the minister how she can say she did not know about the appointment when the directive says these types of appointments—unclassified—are made by the ministers themselves. Why would the minister, or somebody on her behalf if she did not know about it, make an appointment that clearly violates the spirit of Management Board directives?

**Hon Ms Hošek:** Let me repeat, I heard about this in the paper this morning. I was told he was hired by the building branch. He was hired as a research officer by the building branch on a short-term contract on referral from the Human Resources Secretariat. That is what I know about it from having asked my staff to tell me the facts.

#### SEMINARS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

**Mr Faubert:** My question is for the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs. I commend the minister on her initiative to hold regional seminars for senior citizens throughout the province. Indeed, these seminars offered seniors an opportunity to meet one another in a participative environment. They were informative, educational and enjoyable to many seniors. Now that the first series of seminars is completed, could the minister advise this House of the results of this senior citizens' initiative?

**Hon Mrs Wilson:** I would like to thank the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere for his question and also for the interest he has expressed in this series of regional seminars which has just been completed around the province.

Our government of course is developing a system of services and programs for seniors which will meet their needs, not just over the short term but on into the next century as the number of baby boomers age and swell the number of seniors in the province.

Who then better to ask for advice in developing that system than seniors themselves, a group of people who have a great deal of experience and wisdom to offer? They did so at those seminars. Their contribution will be particularly helpful in

rationalizing our long-term care system, our single point of entry into the system, both at the community level and at the institutional level, a system which will affect many of our older people in the province today and in the years to come.

**Mr Faubert:** The minister will be aware that the regional seminar for Metropolitan Toronto was held at the Columbus Centre, Villa Colombo on Lawrence Avenue West. Many seniors in my riding of Scarborough-Ellesmere advised me they would have liked to have attended this seminar but were unable to do so due to the distance and existing transportation difficulties to get there.

The minister may be aware that there are well over 50 officially recognized senior clubs or associations in the city of Scarborough, and according to the 1986 census, Scarborough is home to approximately 42,700 seniors. Indeed, Scarborough has experienced the largest growth of senior citizens as a percentage of population in Metropolitan Toronto, a growth of over 145 per cent. Could the minister advise the House if she would consider holding a seminar for seniors in Scarborough in the future?

**Hon Mrs Wilson:** A number of communities have asked me to come and hold a seminar for seniors in their particular areas. I have had the opportunity to visit some of those seniors in the member's particular area at the opening of their seniors' games and also in a community forum. I would be very pleased to consider holding a seniors' seminar in the Scarborough community in the future. I know that Scarborough seniors have a great deal to offer and can certainly provide me with advice in some of the work we have ahead of us. I will take that invitation very seriously.

**Mr Reville:** I think we just had the seminar right here.

#### CONDUCT OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Mr Reville:** My question is to the Minister of Culture and Communications. On two occasions last Thursday, 8 June, in response to my questions about the circumstances involving her mother and the contract with Mrs Starr, the minister said, "I am not aware of any conflict in this situation," and again she said, "I am not aware of any conflict of interest in this situation."

We have heard just now from the Premier (Mr Peterson) that in fact the matter has been referred to the conflict-of-interest commissioner. Does that mean the minister became aware of a

conflict, or does she still believe there is no conflict?

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** I indicated last week in the House that I take very seriously any allegations of inappropriate conduct or ill behaviour. I indicated today that I had referred the matter to the conflict-of-interest commissioner. I believe that there was no conflict of interest. He will have to make the decision.

**Mr Reville:** Would the minister advise the House whether the referral was made following routine proceedings on Thursday or on the Friday when she spoke with the Premier?

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** It is my understanding that the letter was signed and delivered before the proceedings.

#### INVESTIGATIONS BY PROVINCIAL AUDITOR

**Mr Harris:** I understand the Premier today has agreed to have the Provincial Auditor look into Patti Starr's tenure at Ontario Place. I wonder whether he would agree, given the number of horror stories that are coming out, that it would be in order for the Provincial Auditor as well to look at Ms Starr's activities during her tenure and appointment at the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I am not aware of any allegations of anything, but if my honourable friend has any allegations or something he wants to lay on the table, then obviously we should track it down.

**Mr Harris:** If the Premier thinks it is appropriate, I will accept it that way: The auditor ought to look into those activities as well.

I ask the Premier as well, once the auditor gets on a roll, whether the Premier thinks it would be appropriate, and I would suggest to him that I think it is, for the auditor, under the supervision of the standing committee on public accounts, to look into the violation of the Management Board of Cabinet directives in the hiring of Dino Chiesa by the Ministry of Housing and into the contract, details and circumstances surrounding the hiring.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Absolutely no problem. If the Provincial Auditor wants to look at anything he wants to look at and report back to the committee, that is his responsibility. He functions independently. Then he goes back and makes judgements and discusses them with the committee. That, of course, is something that I support.

If the member has anything he wants him to look into, he should make that suggestion. If the

member has any facts to deal with, then he should lay them on the table. But I say to my friend that he can stand up in this House and make any allegation he wants; I think it should be looked into and then judgements can be made on the basis of facts, not just allegations.

1440

#### AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

**Mr Tatham:** I wish to address the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Is the minister aware of recent media reports concerning the subsidies to Canadian farmers and the possible changes to Canadian agricultural policy due to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade? Are these reports available?

**Hon Mr Riddell:** I believe the honourable member is referring to the recent, brief report of the C. D. Howe Institute, authored by Professor Gilson, entitled *World Agricultural Changes*. I have not had an opportunity to read the book, but I certainly have read the study that was provided to me by the institute.

There is no question that Professor Gilson is referring to the many changes the Canadian industry is going to be facing, both globally and domestically, but he concentrated more on those policies of government that are trade-distorting. I will say that he was very optimistic about the future of the agriculture and food industry in Canada, but he did say that Canada should very aggressively defend its policies, particularly article 11 in GATT, which renders support to supply management.

**Mr Tatham:** I know the minister refers to an optimistic outlook for Canadian farmers, but I have had a lot of calls from a lot of dairy farmers in my area. I draw the minister's attention to the concern and uncertainty many Ontario dairy farmers face by recent federal actions and media reports on the supposed excessive subsidies to dairy farmers. I would ask the minister, what action has he or his ministry undertaken to ensure this uncertainty among our dairy producers is reduced?

**Hon Mr Riddell:** There is no question there was a raw nerve struck with the dairy farmers when the federal government decided to cap industrial milk prices. We do not understand why they picked on the dairy industry when the dairy industry certainly has very little to do with the trade-distorting practices that are going on both in the United States and the European Community. But we have certainly endeavoured to inform all our producers of developments within the agricultural negotiations at GATT, and I have

certainly addressed my concerns to the federal government about some of the actions that it has taken.

I have also rendered a strong commitment to our supply-managed commodities and their systems, and I have indicated that support to my federal colleague and asked him to show the same kind of commitment. I also indicated to the federal minister that I was not prepared to support his efforts to have the Ontario Milk Marketing Board cap its prices.

#### CONDUCT OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Mr B. Rae:** I want to come back to the Premier and I want to deal again with the question of the Premier's own personal standards of conduct with regard to members of his cabinet. He will know that when we passed the conflict legislation, it was to deal with questions of conflict of interest that are clearly defined in the law. The question that I am asking the Premier is a different kind of question, regardless of what Mr Justice Evans finds. I am asking a question about the Premier's standard of conduct for his own members of his cabinet.

The Minister of Culture and Communications (Mrs Oddie Munro) has admitted that she referred her own mother to Mrs Starr as the recipient of a personal contract of some \$5,000. I am asking the Premier to answer this simple question, does the Premier regard that as appropriate behaviour by a member of his cabinet, and is it conduct which he approves and which he condones, yes or no?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I have told my honourable friend—and he has asked it several times and I am going to give him the same answer—I am in the process of determining the facts. There was no government money involved here. Had it been government money, then obviously it would have been a different situation. But one of the reasons we have the conflict-of-interest commissioner is to give us advice on these matters.

The member will stand up in this House and he will have his judgement on these things and others can have theirs, but surely the reason we signed the legislation was to get the advice of someone who is presumably objective in the matter. The member wants to stand up and make his own holier-than-thou plea on this and everything else, and he is entitled to do that, but no one is to say that he is any more objective than anybody else. Surely that is why this House passed conflict-of-interest legislation, objectively done for all to see. So would it not be helpful to get the commissioner's judgement on the matter?

**Mr B. Rae:** I am simply asking for the Premier to tell us what his standards are. We did not know what those standards were when the previous Solicitor General was forced to resign, and it took two weeks of public controversy for the Premier to finally accept the resignation of that minister. To this day he has not clearly stated what his own personal standards of conduct are. That is the reason why we have a problem today: because this Premier does not have the courage to tell us exactly what his standards are and to enforce those standards when they appear to be breached.

**The Speaker:** The question?

**Mr B. Rae:** I want to ask the Premier this question: Does he condone members of his own cabinet, in discussions with charitable organizations, referring members of their own families as candidates for receiving money from those charities for the performance of individual services? Is that something which the Premier condones and approves, yes or no?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I have the same answer for my honourable friend with the same question.

#### POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

**Mr Brandt:** I have a question for the Minister of Culture and Communications. The minister has been advised that there was a \$350 contribution to her campaign, which was in contravention of the Election Finances Act. She is also aware, I believe, at this point that there were 10 receipts issued in the amount of \$35 each in an attempt to get around the act.

Would the minister indicate to this House whether she was aware of those 10 receipts being issued, ostensibly by her chief financial officer, and upon being made aware of those receipts being inappropriately issued, what did she do about it?

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** When I was asked by the reporter from the Globe and Mail whether there were some irregularities as far as responding to donations or purchasing tickets was concerned, I turned the item over to the president of my riding association, who subsequently, as I indicated here, discussed the matter with the Commission on Election Finances and also with the Ontario Liberal Party, and I understand that there is an investigation under way now. As far as I am concerned, I did the only thing that I could do, which was to ask him to look into the matter.

**Mr Brandt:** One thing we found out is that Ms Starr sure was a busy little lady during the course of the past few months, or few years, for that

matter. Since there were in fact 10 receipts issued by her chief financial officer, with the knowledge of her president, now with the knowledge of the election finances commissioner, would the minister indicate to this House by way of information, or would she perhaps table the information with this House, the 10 names that were used in order to cover off the \$350 so that she would be in compliance with the Election Finances Act? Who were those people?

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** I am not aware of the details of the question that the member has asked, so I cannot give him that information. I referred the item to the president, and he subsequently discussed the issue with the party and with the finances commission. I can say nothing other than that.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. New question, the member for Brampton South.

[Applause]

**Mr Callahan:** I have not even asked the question and they are applauding already.

#### COURT SYSTEM

**Mr Callahan:** I have a question for the Attorney General.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Callahan:** Quiet; the people of Brampton want to hear this. Those guys may not want to.

The courts in Brampton, which reflect the courts of the entirety of Peel region, are significantly occupied, as the Attorney General is well aware. In fact, many of the court calendars today are going far beyond what can be heard in a single day. I understand certain steps have been suggested by his ministry to the chief judge of my riding, that they set up a particular committee, which I understand has been set up. I would ask the Attorney General first of all to verify that it has been set up, and just how effective has it been up to this point?

**Hon Mr Scott:** As the honourable member knows, in other jurisdictions across North America that face problems of backlog and delay, the only acceptable solution for those problems has been the establishment of a local committee, usually chaired by the local judge but including the local crown attorney, representatives of the defence bar, the administrator and legal aid, to devise goals, to develop strategies and to work those strategies in the form of policies to remove delay and backlog. Such projects have been established at the direction of

the Chief Judge of Ontario and with my support in six busy jurisdictions, including Brampton.

The government has made plain that if such a committee is established, if goals are established by the court committee, if strategies are developed and if those strategies are worked, what resources the government has for additional services will be made available in those areas and in response to those plans.

1450

**Mr Callahan:** I wonder if the Attorney General might indicate what other steps have been taken in addition to setting up the courts committee, with reference to speeding up the process and thereby bringing us closer to the day we will have additional facilities out there.

**Hon Mr Scott:** In Brampton, the committee has been functioning now since late October, I think. I understand that if it has not yet done so, it will shortly be filing a plan with goals and strategies illustrating how it has worked to achieve efficiencies in that community. I know the leadership of the chief judge in the county of Peel has been considerable. I have had occasion to meet not only with the local committee but also with him, to discuss its objectives. If and when that plan is received and approved, I will then try to respond to it as best I can.

I want the honourable member to know that the experience all over North America illustrates plainly that when there is an unmanaged system, the provision of new resources does not make it better. It simply provides new resources to an unmanaged system. Our focus has been to work with local people in communities to develop new ways of managing the system efficiently. That has begun to happen in Brampton in the county of Peel and elsewhere in the province. With respect to the county of Peel, I hope that very shortly we will be able to produce good results to allay the honourable member's concern.

#### CONDUCT OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Mr B. Rae:** I wonder if I could ask the Premier precisely when he spoke to the Minister of Culture and Communications about the \$5,000 contract to her mother, what she said to him and what he said to her.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I have lots of private conversations, I do not mind telling my honourable friend, and even though I do not think I should be asked in this House to report on a private conversation any more than he should be, given the circumstances I will tell him. She said she mentioned to Mrs Starr some names known to her, that some time later her mother did a

contract, that she did not even know about it until she read about it in the paper and that there were some stamps, envelopes and a lot of other things involved.

**Mr B. Rae:** I do not regard a conversation between the Premier of this province and the minister of the crown, with regard to a serious allegation about her conduct, as a private conversation. If that is his definition of a private conversation, he has a curious understanding of his responsibilities as Premier of this province.

I would like to ask the Premier, when did this conversation take place? Did the minister admit she referred her mother to Mrs Starr? Upon hearing that information, what was the Premier's comment to the minister?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** It was exactly as I said to my honourable friend. This was last week and I think it was Wednesday or Thursday. It would have been Wednesday because I was away Thursday and Friday. It was exactly as I said to my honourable friend. I was trying to determine the facts.

#### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**Mrs Marland:** My question is to the Minister of Housing. Does she believe in the independence of the quasi-judicial body known as the Ontario Municipal Board?

**Hon Ms Hošek:** Of course.

**Mrs Marland:** I am very encouraged to hear that she does. I understand that at the Peel Non-Profit Housing Corp annual general meeting in Peel on Friday she in fact said she would commit her staff to making every effort to assist in supporting a private developer, and that she hoped that he would win. Does the minister think that is an appropriate use of her staff?

**Hon Ms Hošek:** I am delighted to be able to answer this question and I thank the member for the opportunity. There is in my ministry a group called the housing advocacy task force. We have intervened in a number of cases to bring information to the Ontario Municipal Board in situations where we believe it will advance the cause of affordable housing.

In the case the member for Mississauga South has mentioned, it was a proposal put together by the Toronto Real Estate Board and a private developer for building market housing, ownership housing, at a reasonable cost. Much to my chagrin, the member opposite who has just asked this question was prominent in trying to stop the construction of this housing.

This, of course, was at the same time as the front bench of her party and the critic for Housing stood up and said many times in this House that they wanted to see evidence of the work of this ministry to make sure that ownership housing through the private sector would be available to people at a reasonable price.

I and this government have committed ourselves to that and have done an enormous amount of work to make opportunities possible. I must admit I was more than a little perturbed to discover that the message from the front benches had not reached any of the further benches and that the member opposite from Mississauga South was clearly not interested in working in her community to give people the housing choices and the housing options I think almost everybody in this House supports.

#### HEALTH CARE FINANCING

**Mr Neumann:** My question is for the Treasurer. On Saturday, I was on the local radio in Brantford for an hour and a half answering questions about health care and the future of health care in our province. One caller phoned in to ask about the relationship between the financing of health care and the progressivity of our taxation system and questioned the increase in the sales tax.

I answered by saying that we did provide progressivity in the sales tax and that there were attempts by the Treasurer to take some measures that were thwarted by the federal government in regard to making our tax system more progressive. Could the Treasurer update us on that in an attempt to answer this question in more detail.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Actually, I had the opportunity to hear the honourable member on the program and he did very, very well indeed without any additional information from me. I happened to be driving to the other end of the great constituency of Brant-Haldimand to attend the Mudcat Festival. I should have invited everybody to be there. It was an excellent festival, which maybe, even as we speak, is going on even further.

When it comes to progressivity, the honourable member and I are in strong agreement as to the usefulness and value of progressivity. The honourable member is probably aware that the Ontario tax reduction program, with which we have led federal policies substantially during the last four budgets, has reduced taxes for people at the low end of the income spectrum.

**Mr Villeneuve:** What about the farmers, Bob?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** At the other end, of course, in an area where the honourable member who is interjecting would be most hurt, incomes over \$80,000 pay an additional 10 per cent in personal income tax that is collected by the Minister of Revenue (Mr Grandmaître), which gives progressivity at both ends of the scale.

The honourable member would also be aware, of course, that most of the money is earned by those of us in the large, middle-income areas and that really accounts for most of the \$38 billion we expect to take in.

**Mr Neumann:** Specifically in financing health care, would the Treasurer elaborate on whether he feels the recent abolition of premiums for the Ontario health insurance plan is a move towards greater progressivity in our taxation system?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** One of the things in the budget that should have been pursued more carefully by the honourable members—on all sides perhaps, but particularly in the opposition—was the fact that the abolition of OHIP premiums returned \$1 billion to the pockets of the taxpayers in the province.

This is something that has escaped the notice of most taxpayers, that in fact all individuals in the province were better off after the budget than they were before, even with the tax increases that were announced. This of course is a matter that is clearly explained in the budget papers the honourable members may get around to reading some time.

1500

## CONDUCT OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Mr Reville:** My question is to the Minister of Culture and Communications. The minister has repeatedly stated to the House that she saw no conflict in referring a contract to her mother. I think the question has to be asked again because this is not the first time, with a minister of this government, that we have had difficulty in seeing through the opacity of the standards. Does the minister think it is appropriate to refer contracts to her relatives? Would she do such a thing again?

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** I did not refer a contract. I received an inquiry from Mrs Starr as to people who might be able to do mailing. I said I knew several people and I gave her my mother's number. I did not refer the contract.

**Mr Reville:** For greater specificity, does the minister think it is appropriate to include her mother's name on a list of possible contractors?

**Hon Ms Oddie Munro:** I indicated to the member that I saw no conflict of interest and I have placed the matter before the conflict-of-interest commissioner. If he decides it was a conflict, I will accept that recommendation.

## WESTERN COAL

**Mr Cureatz:** A question to the Minister of Energy: With the United States' announcement of a preferential use of low-sulphur coal, would the minister advise us what steps he is taking on trying to use western low-sulphur coal? For two reasons: first, the use in our thermal plants in Ontario of course would reduce acid rain, and second, it would also assist port activity in Thunder Bay.

In conjunction with the possibility of using more western low-sulphur coal, would he advise this House when he and his cabinet colleagues are going to make a decision on the kind of new electrical plant that will be built in Ontario, its location and the date for the startup of construction, to assure Ontario residents we are going to have an adequate supply of electricity in Ontario?

**Hon Mr Wong:** I am very pleased to answer this question today because I am proud to be a Canadian and proud that this government's Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley) has been in the forefront of trying to exert some constructive public pressure on the different participants, including the United States, for the reduction of sulphur dioxide in terms of reducing acid rain.

As the honourable member will know, the Ontario government has a Countdown Acid Rain program designed to reduce SO<sub>2</sub> emissions by approximately one third from now until the year 2000. This government has been working with the federal government, the Alberta government, and if my memory is correct, the Saskatchewan government on the federal-provincial action committee to address exactly the question the honourable member has raised.

We are looking into ways whereby we can improve the facilities, the taxation structures and the transportation to enable Ontario and Ontario Hydro to use more low-sulphur, western Canadian coal in its mix of coal, so that we can produce energy and electricity in this province in an environmentally acceptable way that meets the environmental emissions standards of this province.

## PETITIONS

### SECURITY IN PREMISES USED BY PUBLIC

**Mr Villeneuve:** I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We request that the Ministry of the Attorney General withdraw Bill 149, An Act to amend the Trespass to Property Act, which we believe is unnecessary and without mandate.

"While we respect the rights of minorities and youth, whom Bill 149 alleges to protect, we oppose the way in which the proposed legislation will erode the ability of owners and occupiers to provide a safe and hospitable environment for their patrons and customers. We are further concerned about the legislation's potential for increasing confrontation in the already difficult process of removing individuals who create disturbances on publicly used premises."

This petition is signed by 209 constituents. I have signed it and I endorse it fully.

**The Speaker:** There are quite a number of private conversations. They may be necessary but they are very noisy.

#### PROPERTY SPECULATION

**Mr Laughren:** I have a petition from the Affordable Housing Action Group, from thousands here in Toronto.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Given that property speculation in Ontario has contributed to driving up the cost of home ownership, to increasing the cost of building nonprofit housing, and to rent increases for tenants because speculators are rewarded under the provincial government's rent review law, we demand that the government of Ontario impose a tax on the capital gain on nonprincipal residences and land, so that:

"100 per cent of the profit is taxed away on resales within one year;

"75 per cent of the profit is taxed away on resales within two years;

"50 per cent of the profit is taxed away on resales within three years;

"25 per cent of the profit is taxed away on resales within four years."

I have affixed my signature along with thousands of other people from the Toronto area.

#### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr Faubert:** "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior

to May 31, 1982, have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"The proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

This petition is signed by some 195 residents of Ontario. I have affixed my signature thereto and I submit the petition for positive action by the government.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Ms Bryden:** I am pleased to exercise my right to present a petition in the Legislature on the subject of Bill 162, a bill to amend the Worker's Compensation Act. It is signed by 10 members from the Simcoe County Injured Workers' Association and reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act, Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1980, chapter 539 as amended by Statutes of Ontario, 1981, chapter 30; Statutes of Ontario, 1982, chapter 61; Statutes of Ontario, 1983, chapter 45; Statutes of Ontario, 1984, chapter 38; Statutes of Ontario, 1984, chapter 58; Statutes of Ontario, 1985, chapter 3; Statutes of Ontario, 1985, chapter 17; and Statutes of Ontario, 1986, chapter 64, section 69,

"Because Bill 162 contains the most significant changes to the Ontario system of workers' compensation contemplated for many years, and yet the Minister of Labour, as reported in the media, wants the bill passed and implemented by the end of 1988—in other words, without an adequate process for public consultation, debate and discussion; and

"Because Bill 162 represents an attack on injured workers and their families and all of those people who have fought over the years to achieve fairness and justice for injured workers and their families; and

"Because Bill 162 will eliminate the current lifetime pension for lifetime disability and replace it with a dual award system combining a lump sum and actual wage loss award benefits that has been rejected by injured workers, their advocacy groups, community legal workers and lawyers working on their behalf and by the trade union movement since it was first proposed for implementation in Ontario by the 1980 Weiler

report and the Conservative government's 1981 white paper; and

"Because Bill 162 virtually ignores the devastating critique and recommendations of the Majesky-Minna task force report on vocational rehabilitation, that was submitted to the Minister of Labour and suppressed by the Liberal government until April 1988; and

"Because Bill 162 gives legislative form to the unacceptable and reactionary policy of restricting access to supplement awards announced by the Workers' Compensation Board in 1987; and

"Because Bill 162 restricts an injured worker's right to appeal decisions within the adjudication process and elsewhere, notably the percentage 'impairment rating' and reinstatement; and

"Because throughout Bill 162, injured workers are made subject to increased discretionary power at the hands of Workers' Compensation Board functionaries, and made subject to ever more intrusive, invasive and demeaning assaults on their dignity, their privacy and their right to fair and just treatment."

I am pleased to sign this petition and I support it.

**The Speaker:** On other occasions I have reminded members how to present a petition. I might just say to the member, she might read standing order 31 and will not have to go into detail then.

1510

### NATUROPATHY

**Mr Beer:** I have two petitions I would like to present. They read as follows:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is my constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of my preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

These two petitions are signed by 30 persons in each case.

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Mr Kormos:** I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario.

"Whereas Bill 162 (a) does nothing to improve lifetime pensions, especially for disease and soft tissue injuries; (b) denies injured workers the right to rehabilitation; (c) offers re-employment rights that are less than afforded by the human rights act; (d) gives too much discretionary power to the WCB to deny injured workers benefits; (e) restricts injured workers the right to appeal,

"We request this assembly to advise the Labour minister, the Honourable Gregory Sorbara, to withdraw said Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act."

It is signed by Brian O'Dell of Welland and nine others, and of course I have affixed my signature to it as well.

### REPORT BY COMMITTEE

#### STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Speaker: Mr Neumann from the standing committee on social development presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill as amended:

Bill 124, An Act to amend the Children's Law Reform Act.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1989

Hon Mr Wrye moved first reading of Bill 30, An Act respecting Funeral Directors and Establishments.

Motion agreed to.

Hon Mr Wrye: Last March, I announced to the House that I would be releasing unnumbered bills during the legislative recess in order to share the government's policy decisions in the bereavement sector. The proposed legislation was released in early April and since that time, my ministry has met with many interested groups to discuss these two bills, including the second one which I will be introducing in a minute.

As a result of that consultation, some technical changes have been made to the draft bill. The first bill I have introduced is the Funeral Directors and Establishments Act. The bill focuses on enhanced consumer protection. It contains provisions of strengthened disclosure

requirement, ensures a uniform availability of low-priced funeral services and supplies and requires more stringent regulation of contracts.

The proposed legislation also prohibits door-to-door and telephone solicitation of funeral services and it continues the ban on operational connections between funeral homes and cemeteries.

This bill demonstrates the government's commitment to provide enhanced consumer protection, as well as a more equitable marketplace.

I have a second bill, a companion piece of legislation.

#### CEMETERIES ACT, 1989

Hon Mr Wrye moved first reading of Bill 31, An Act to revise the Cemeteries Act.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon Mr Wrye:** Briefly, this legislation will replace the current Cemeteries Act which is badly outdated and obviously in need of revision.

Among the many consumer protection measures included in this proposed legislation are, again, a ban on all telephone and door-to-door solicitation of all cemetery lots, services and supplies, a 30-day cooling-off period on a prepaid contract and a provision that cemeteries must repurchase preneed lots at the request of consumers.

Regulatory effectiveness in the cemetery sector will be strengthened with the licensing of all cemeteries and commercial cemetery sales persons and the appointment of a registrar to administer the act. The provisions contained in this bill were developed over time through consultation with many interested parties, including consumer and industry groups.

That input, and recent technical changes made to the draft bill, have strengthened and improved this important legislation.

#### LANDLORD AND TENANT AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

Ms Bryden moved first reading of Bill 32, An Act to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act.

Motion agreed to.

**Ms Bryden:** My bill would amend the Landlord and Tenant Act by prohibiting the use of "no pet" clauses in leases and in landlords' rules for residential premises. It would end the discrimination against responsible pet owners who live in apartments in this province.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION ACT, 1989

Hon Ms Hošek moved second reading of Bill 211, An Act to revise the Rental Housing Protection Act.

**Hon Ms Hošek:** I rise today to give second reading to the Rental Housing Protection Act, 1989. As members are aware, this legislation addresses one of the most important issues in housing today, the protection of Ontario's rental housing stock.

Since 1986 when it became apparent that conversions, demolitions and similar activities were removing rental housing at an alarming rate, our government has protected both the stock of rental housing and the security of tenants living in those units.

With the passage of the Rental Housing Protection Act in July 1986, persons seeking to change the use of rental housing were first required to obtain approval from the local municipal council. In general, the Rental Housing Protection Act has been successful in preventing a reduction in the stock of rental housing. Conversions, demolitions and other such activities have been dramatically reduced in cities across Ontario.

However, the Rental Housing Protection Act is temporary legislation enacted for a two-year period, then extended for an additional year to allow for consultations on the future of the act.

Earlier this year, I reached the conclusion that the market conditions which prompted the government to implement the Rental Housing Protection Act had not changed to a significant degree. Accordingly, on 31 January, I introduced for first reading the Rental Housing Protection Act, 1989, which provides permanent protection for the stock of rental housing and the security of tenants in Ontario.

This new legislation is not only permanent, it also makes several important improvements to the current act which I would like to highlight for members today.

First, the new act extends protection to vacant buildings. The same protection will be provided to vacant rental buildings as is provided to buildings with tenants. As I have indicated previously, this aspect of the legislation is retroactive to 31 January 1989, ensuring that vacant buildings are not lost from the housing stock during the debates on the new act.

Furthermore, the new act restricts the practice of systematically evicting tenants in order to obtain vacant possession of a building.

Also, the act extends the time period for laying a charge under the legislation from six months to two years, and, once in court, the new act provides for fines and jail terms for anyone convicted of harassing tenants.

Under the new act, the courts also have the power to return to rental use any units that are converted without municipal approval and to re-establish tenancies in those units.

1520

These are just some of the significant improvements which have been made to the legislation but, as I have said before, the Rental Housing Protection Act is just one part of our strategy to provide affordable housing for all Ontarians. The Rental Housing Protection Act must be assisted by an increase in the supply of housing that is affordable.

Earlier today I announced the formation of a new nonprofit housing agency to create between 200 and 500 new homes and to improve the existing buildings in the Moss Park neighbourhood in downtown Toronto. The Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority and two private nonprofit housing agencies, the Homes First Society and the Supportive Housing Coalition, will jointly develop and manage new housing in the community. This is the first time in the history of the province that such a partnership has been formed between the public housing sector and nonprofit housing agencies.

This partnership follows on the heels of our unique agreement last week with the Canadian Auto Workers in Peel-Halton to increase the supply of affordable housing. More than 200 nonprofit housing units will be built in this community during the next few years. We have previously signed housing agreements with the Toronto Catholic archdiocese, the United Church presbyteries in Metropolitan Toronto and the cities of Peterborough and Ottawa.

By joining with those groups and agencies which have resources to provide affordable housing, we greatly increase the supply of housing that people can afford to live in. Moreover, our draft policy statement, when implemented later this summer, will require municipalities to plan differently. It will facilitate the development of a broad variety and mix of housing types with at least 25 per cent of all new housing supply to be affordable to low- and moderate-income households.

Finally, our government has committed significant resources to produce 30,000 affordable housing units through \$3 billion in Canada pension plan funds and \$300 million a year in

annual subsidy costs to those communities. The Rental Housing Protection Act is a crucial element of this package of initiatives. It is permanent, it is comprehensive and I believe it is vital to tenants in Ontario and to the long-term viability of the rental housing stock in the province.

I invite all members of the House to join with me in supporting this important legislation. I am interested in hearing the views of the members opposite.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Do other people want to participate in the debate? Le député d'Oshawa.

**Hon Mr Elston:** Can't they find anybody new?

**Mr Breaugh:** No. Unfortunately, they cannot find anybody new. The members are stuck for the entire afternoon. They could of course always ring the bells. It may be their last opportunity to do that.

I want to make some remarks about this bill and begin by saying that we do not support the bill and some will find that surprising because—

**Hon Ms Hošek:** Just a little, Mikey.

**Mr Fleet:** Shocking. We thought you would be more in favour of helping the tenants out.

**Mr Breaugh:** That is part of the problem. The government seems to be helping the tenants out in a number of ways; in this context, it means out on the street. That is one of my concerns with this bill.

I have no argument at all with the basic principle of trying to protect rental housing stock. I know that I and a number of colleagues in all three parties have been participants in this discussion which has gone on now over a number of years in various municipalities which recognized that the vacancy rate was abysmal in their communities and that one of the things contributing to the problem of trying to find decent rental accommodation was that the accommodation stock was being deleted at an alarming rate.

This was being done in a number of ways in a number of municipalities. Investors simply recognized that they could go into a community, buy an apartment building, usually a smaller one, convert it into condominiums and make a quick profit right away. In other communities it took different forms.

I do not think it is unfair to say that the initial legislation came about because the city of Toronto decided to take some action on its own initiative and asked for a private bill which would allow it to do so. That was a long and difficult fight. Initially, we got what might best be

described in polite terms as temporary legislation which moved to deal with it in principle. What happened during the course of that time period when that legislation was in place, as it is now, is that that was seen as temporary legislation, not enforceable. The argument then was that it was kind of a moral victory won, but for practical purposes nothing could be done.

We are not going to support this bill today, and I admit it more out of frustration than anything else. There is frustration that a government which says one thing often winds up doing quite another, frustration when a government says it is committed to protecting its private rental stock and then sits by and does absolutely nothing to protect it. That has been part of the ongoing problem.

Part of the difficulty I have with the bill is a process question, that a government knew it had to rectify some legislation that was on the books but was clearly flawed. They made some wonderful speeches about it and then went off in secret to deal with the matter of formulating new laws. They then announced rather grandly in January of this year that this was the new law.

It is true that any group that wanted to make a presentation to the government could do so, but that was clearly and distinctly a private piece of business. That was not the public's government at work. We know how the public's government works and, frankly, I hope that from this point on it will function in a more appropriate way, that this bill will be given a reasonable amount of debate here this afternoon, that it will be referred to a committee where there will be the opportunity to have those public hearings. At that stage, I will be one of the ones who will be very interested in seeing whether or not we or others can put forward amendments to this bill which cover some of the very large loopholes that are still there.

I think I need to make this case a bit more because my frustration levels are pretty high. This is a government which in January of this year, while it was announcing this bill, decided that it could not take any action on this problem. Here is where I begin to depart from the current government. In January of this year, a 112-unit property at 660 Eglinton Avenue West was put up for sale under the guise of something called a limited partnership. A city of Toronto councillor, Kay Gardner, put forward the details to the Ministry of Housing, saying that this was clearly wrong; it was clearly morally in contravention of what the minister's stated legislative intentions were.

The minister says that she wants to protect rental accommodation in law. She said in January that she had a new law which would do that more effectively. But in January of this year, when the specifics were brought forward to the government, it decided that it could not act, said that it did not really have the legal grounds to act. For those tenants who lived in that building, it is small comfort for the government to say, "Well, that's not our intention, but there's nothing we can do about it."

Of course, the rub really is that when this particular building became the subject of television news stories, that changed the perspective altogether. Then, of course, the act that was not enforceable in January all of a sudden became enforceable. So I think members can see the confused message that is sent to the population at large and to those who would test our laws.

The message is pretty blunt: "You can test our laws all you want. You can bend them, you can twist them, you can turn them any way you want and it will be all right, unless there is a television news story about it. If it makes the news, then it will become something that we'll consider prosecutions about."

It would be one thing, I suppose, if this kind of limited partnership scheme were isolated and only happened in one place, but it is not. In subsequent press reports I have dug up, Kay Gardner provided the ministry with a number of other examples of the same kind of thing, where somebody decides that with a new set of words you can, in fact, evict those tenants and sell off the units. That is, in my view, clearly wrong.

Let me share with members some other instances where I find some difficulty with what the government is doing. I notice the minister in her opening statement today managed once again to work in a press conference she had this morning announcing some additional units, possibly at Moss Park here in Toronto. The irony, of course, is that last year John Sewell got fired for suggesting that they ought to do exactly the same thing.

**Mr Fleet:** He wasn't fired.

**Mr Breaugh:** No, he was not fired, he just is not at that job any more.

So one guy suggests something, takes it through the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority to a point where it could actually happen, he gets fired; six months later the minister announces it as a great idea.

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I read with interest her press release, and it was a very nifty press kit that came to my office at

about one o'clock this afternoon. It had her statement, it had everybody else's statements, it had a couple of nice booklets and it was hand delivered. If this government could actually prepare housing as well as it prepares statements about housing, we would have no problem at all.

That is the difficulty: Between what the minister says—and she often says it very well—and what the ministry actually does, there are light years; for example, this morning. I wonder what the minister would do if somebody came to her with a housing proposal that said, "We'd like to build somewhere between 200 and 500 units somewhere and we'd like your money to do that." I would think staff at the ministry would say: "Somewhere between 200 and 500 units? Do you think we could nail it down just a little closer than that? Are you going to build 200 or are you going to build 500? Are you going to build 250 or what?" It seems to me there is that credibility problem, which is not made better by these kinds of statements.

Let me go on to a couple of other things which do bother me a bit. I know the minister is aware, because we certainly have done questions on it in this chamber and others have elsewhere, of the practice of registering units as condominiums and then putting them on the market as rental units. It is a pretty common practice. Most of the buildings I know that have been built in my community in the last few years, and I think in most communities, are built and registered as condominiums. There is a long litany of problems people have in actually getting them registered now as condominiums. I will not really go into that because that is not pertinent to the discussion this afternoon, but she knows that is common practice. She knows that is going to create some problems, because this bill does not cover that. This bill exempts that particular practice.

The reason I want to raise it this afternoon is not that I want to make a great and long theological argument about private ownership of condominiums, but I want to make some short arguments about the practical problems that are caused.

**Hon Mr Elston:** We will get Ed to help.

**Mr Breaugh:** Ed is going to give you the long theological argument, so I am not concerned about that.

When we get to the practical problems of having a building that is rented out, owned by several different owners—and I have several of these in my riding, because in Oshawa for a while it was very trendy to build condominiums, and

when Oshawa was cheek by jowl with condominium units, people discovered that maybe there was not that big a condo market in Oshawa after all, so they became rental buildings—you ought to try to explain to somebody who lives in a building that has 100 different owners the notices they get under rent review in Ontario. You ought to try to explain to people who live in a building that has 100 different owners why there is not any maintenance program in that building. You ought to try to explain to them how it is they get a lock changed or a broken window fixed. It is some challenge.

Then when you explain to them the rent review decisions and the rent review process that applies between 100 different landlords in the same building and 100 different tenants, it really is something else, yet that is common practice and that is what is happening.

One of the things—and I will put it on the record this afternoon because the minister will hear it again—is that the exemption that is in this act about condos is going to come back to haunt her because of the way in which this will be done. It has already happened in Mississauga; it will happen in other communities around Ontario.

Some bright light will decide on a weekend that he wants to sell off the building that he owns that is already rented and lived in by 200 families. Somebody will put little notices underneath their doors on a Friday night that they are selling this place off this weekend. The tenants will all get the notice at the same time and find out, probably for the first time, that the building they lived in as rental accommodation is really condominiums.

They will be told on a Friday night, "We're selling them off for \$100,000, \$200,000," whatever. "If you want, make an offer this weekend and you can buy the unit you're living in." They cannot, and they cannot get their financing together, but there will be all kinds of people out from the city for an afternoon's drive, looking for a little investment somewhere, and they will buy them. By Monday morning, those people will be getting notices to hit the road.

It is going to be a sad and angry thing, and this government is going to have to say: "Well, we had a chance to close that, but we chose not to. We chose to leave that loophole open." It is going to be an absolutely untenable position. I do not know why the government did not move to close at least that loophole in the act.

Let me give members a couple of other examples of performance problems that I have. This is a government that says, for example, it is

illegal to charge key money. Last year I think it charged something like six people in the whole province for that practice. I wish there were only six instances of that practice happening.

It is this government's unwillingness—I guess—is the polite way to put it—to challenge people who are breaking the law. In fact, in the current situation the people know that, never mind what the law says, there is nobody around to implement the law. The Landlord and Tenant Act is virtually unenforced, except for those few small areas in Ontario where there is an active tenants' association and it tries to enforce it.

Consider the laws about key money. Even though the press releases say you cannot do that, every landlord in Ontario knows that nobody is going to catch you. There is nobody to write the ticket on this. By the time the ministry actually gets around to doing something, the practice is over with and all the participants are long gone. It is not the theory of what this government is trying to do this afternoon that bothers me; it is its track record, because it stinks, and members know it.

Those who have just parked their limousines out back disagree, but everybody else understands very thoroughly that the performance of this government in terms of housing is abysmal and the performance of this government in terms of this act is awful.

Now we will go to committee for a few days, I hope—not extensive hearings, but enough so that those who want to be heard can appear before the committee and make their case. It seems to me that there are some obvious flaws. The hidden condominium stuff—I guess that is the best way to put it—is the one major problem that, in a political sense, is going to come back to haunt this government.

But I think there are some other problems in there. I do not know how legal it is to write legislation which says: "If you live in a community that has a population of more than 50,000 people, this is what the law is. This is what you can do and this is what you cannot do. But if you live in a community with fewer than 50,000, there is no law." I do not know why the proposed legislation is written in that way. I do not know that it makes any sense to me to say: "If you live in Scarborough, on this side of the border, this is the law; if you live on the other side of Scarborough, in one of the smaller communities of less than 50,000, it does not apply." That is the way this government has chosen to write this.

I do not know if the government has done a great deal in terms of defining how municipali-

ties go about interpreting their role in this. In other words, I would not make the argument that there are as many loopholes in this proposed legislation as there were in the previous law. I do not think that is true. I think the government has made some moves, which I would applaud under normal circumstances, for tightening up some of the rather wishy-washy versions of the law that were currently in practice.

But the government did not go far enough and its process was, in my view, severely flawed. We will try from this point on to correct that. I hope we can, in some measure, make the arguments that are necessary and propose the amendments, either from the opposition parties or the government side, or perhaps from those who might want to come before the committee and make their views known at the time.

I do think there is a serious problem at work here. I would not argue for a moment, for example, as I have heard some argue, that simply protecting the existing rental stock is the solution. I do not think it is. I think there are a number of things that need to be done. I would even go so far as to say that I think this government knows what those things are, but this government chooses not to do them.

I think it is sad that this government chooses to write this act in this way, but I think the sadder thing is simply this: if I dealt only in political theory, I might accept that this bill is all we really need; but I do not, unfortunately. I deal in the political reality of how a government implements its stated intentions and I know that there is a world of difference between what it says it wants to do and what it actually does.

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For me to accept the notion that this government, which was so unwilling to prosecute people under the previous law, is going to be born again and now will do the right stuff, would be silliness on my part.

I do not think the government will do that. To expect that this government, which has taken the Landlord and Tenant Act and the Rental Housing Protection Act and has performed in such a miserable way, is now going to turn itself around and do the right thing on this bill is unrealistic.

The biggest single complaint I have about the proposed legislation this afternoon is not the words that are strung together on these pieces of paper. It is the performance of this government. In order to change my point of view on that, this government is going to have to perform in a whole different way.

We will have the theoretical discussion, in committee when we do it clause by clause, of whether the words will actually reflect what this Legislature thinks needs to be done. I would hope that by the end of that process we would have a better bill than is before us now. I hope that the committee proceedings will be an open, public process like the one there should have been in the preparation of this bill but was not.

I would hope the government still has an open mind, so that when people come before it and present their very real problems, it will at least address them. The bill that is before us in this form, to me and to my caucus is not acceptable. I hope that as we go through the committee stage of the bill, we can do some things which will make it more amenable to us.

As one who has advocated for some time now that we do, in fact, need to protect our rental accommodation stock—that is one of the many problems we have in Ontario at the moment—this is a bill which purports to do that, but it is the performance of the government which leads me away from being supportive at the moment. It is the process, in fact, which the government chose to use to get to this point that bothers me no end.

I hope we can make it a better bill. I hope we can do something with this bill which will actually protect some tenants, because I think, without question, tenants are under fire all over Ontario. Sometimes we tend to think this is only a Toronto problem; that outside of the boundaries of Metropolitan Toronto there are not any rental accommodation problems.

If I do one thing in concluding my remarks this afternoon, I want to try to clarify that a bit. People who are investing in rental accommodation have pretty much saturated the hot real estate market in the city of Toronto and in all of Metropolitan Toronto, and they are on the move, out into the smaller towns and villages all across Ontario.

They have a complete bag of tricks which they have probably learned here. They know how to get people out of their buildings. They know how to play with the rent review process in Ontario. They know how far they can go, even with the Landlord and Tenant Act, in terms of abusing their tenants, and they will have read Bill 211 and know how to find the loopholes in it and exploit them.

They are operating now all across Ontario, in smaller communities that once thought they were immune from this kind of stuff. The people who are under siege are really in two classifications. Tenants in Ontario are under fire and, to their

immense credit, they are beginning for the first time to seriously try to organize on a provincial scale, which is one of the things that is clearly out of whack here. The tenants' associations around Ontario have had difficulty formulating a provincial body which could come forward and represent them, for example, at these types of hearings. That has been a crying need for a long time and I applaud those who are finally trying to put that together and I wish them luck, because they will need luck and skill in order to get that to fruition.

The other group that is under fire, oddly enough—and you will find this strange coming from me—is the smaller landlords. Smaller landlords around Ontario, especially in rural Ontario, are just confused by this mess. People write to me from small towns like Orillia and Cobourg and they want to know when they could get an answer from the Rent Review Hearings Board. I try to explain the rent review process in Ontario to them and they find it incredible.

Little folks who own one small sixplex, who actually fix broken windows, who go in and repair things and have done so for years, are now being asked to produce records like they have never kept in their life.

The sad thing, of course, is that the larger operators, who have accountants and lawyers and advisers and consultants in architectural firms, in construction firms and all of that, know how to play this game. You do not need to actually do the repair, you need to produce the piece of paper. They are very good at that, and it does not matter what is on the piece of paper. If it says on a piece of paper that it cost \$1,000 to fix a window, the rent review process demands that you have the piece of paper. Of course, they do not demand to see the broken window or who repaired it. The poor little guy who does not produce the piece of paper but chooses rather to go and fix the tenant's window is out a lot with rent review.

So there are some unusual allies being formed. I would hope that at some point in time the smaller landlords across Ontario would be able to be organized too, because I think they have a legitimate beef with this government, particularly about things like rent review and probably in the near future about why some sharpie can read a bill like Bill 211, the one we are debating this afternoon, and get away with murder and they cannot even get a straight answer from rent review on when they might actually have a decision on their building. In a sad way, there is a coalition of tenants and small landlords who are

confused by our laws. They are confused by what they perceive to be—and I agree with them—a basic unfairness in the process.

This bill does not do very much to resolve that kind of a problem. It does not even do enough, in my view, to meet its basic objective: to protect rental housing accommodation in Ontario.

I think the bill itself fails its test, but most important, the government that introduced the bill certainly does fail that test. We will go to committee, we will try to work with it to see if we can produce a slightly better form of legislation that would be supportable in the near future, but at this stage this bill should not be supported by my party or anybody else who is really interested in protecting rental accommodation in Ontario.

**Mr Fleet:** I was quite shocked to hear some of the comments from the member for Oshawa, particularly that he does not want to support a bill that has had widespread support from a number of tenants' groups, not the least of which is the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations, which on the whole has been very supportive of this bill as it is currently proposed.

With respect to the proposal about limited partnerships, I wonder if the member has had an opportunity to review subsection 7(1) as well as the definition of co-ops in the first section of the bill. It seems to me that adequately deals with the problem of limited partnerships. I share his concern that limited partnerships ought not to be allowed to disrupt the ordinary arrangements that would exist between landlords and tenants. I understand the case he referred to is either on its way to court or is already in court.

With respect to his problems dealing with the obligations of landlords who happen to be part of a condominium corporation, I am again rather amazed that he would not simply be able to relate, at least in a broad way, the outlines of the legal obligations of those landlords. It is simply the same as any other landlord in any other kind of structure. The person who is renting out a condominium unit is going to be obligated to fulfil all the obligations that exist under the law, including the Landlord and Tenant Act.

In addition, in the case of any condominium corporation of any size that I have ever run into, they have usually retained a management corporation which is able to assist the people who reside, whether they are owners or whether they are tenants. Again, for any condominium corporation of any size that I have ever heard of, certainly in Metro Toronto, almost invariably there are some people who are tenants and there

are some people who are owners. In those situations, it seems to work out quite well.

I must say that, really, what I did hear was a bit of a religious viewpoint, an attack, frankly, from the member on the rights of people to own their own homes, which is unfortunate.

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**Ms Poole:** I too would like to take this opportunity to address the remarks of the member for Oshawa. He has made it clear that his party will not support this legislation because it does not go far enough. He has also made comment that it sounds fine in theory but it is lacking when it comes to the political realities.

I represent a riding which has some 19,000 tenant households, so I am very aware of the realities and the political realities of representing tenants and trying to get protection for them. Tenants came to me and they said: "We want some security. We want legislation that is permanent." This legislation is permanent.

Second, they came to me and they said: "We're being harassed. They are trying to empty the building and drive us out. We want protection against harassment." In this legislation, that protection is there. There are penalties and there are provisions specifically related to harassment.

Third, they said: "Please make sure this legislation covers vacant buildings. It is meaningless if it does not because the landlords will continue to drive us out to empty the building." This legislation does that.

The fourth thing they said was that the old legislation was not realistic, because by the time they were ready to lay charges the time limitation had passed. This legislation again remedies that problem.

The final coup d'état about this legislation is that it forces the return to rental housing stock of any unit that is illegally converted. What greater deterrent can there be for a landlord to break the law than to have this in? So I think, contrary to the member's viewpoint, that this is good legislation.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Do other members wish to comment?

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** With respect, I would like to respond in my capacity as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Housing unless there are others who wish to speak.

**Mr Harris:** Well, you've got two minutes.

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** I just want to take the two minutes; that is all.

**Mr Breaugh:** The new rules aren't in effect yet. The members are still allowed to speak. You can sit down and wait until the debate is over.

**The Deputy Speaker:** In that case, would the member wish to respond if there are—

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** I only wish two minutes.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Do you wish to comment in the two minutes on that member's statement, yes or no?

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** I will take one minute and thirty-three seconds of the private members' response.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Take it away.

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** I would like to point out to the member for Oshawa that the intention is that the committee hearings on this bill will be full, open committee hearings, as they traditionally are in this Legislature. Valid points that may be made will certainly be considered, I am sure, by the minister and by the government members. Indeed, when valid points are made by other groups perhaps, the opposition members will seriously consider their validity and value.

Quite frankly, I too was encouraged by the fact that tenants are organizing on a provincial basis. The member for Oshawa should know the financial assistance for that organizing came from the Ministry of Housing of this government. We support those efforts and we encourage and laud them.

Finally, he should know that smaller landlords are organized on a collective basis and do quite an effective job in lobbying the government in terms of putting their views forward.

**Mr Breaugh:** I understand they've just hired Patti Star. Is that right?

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** That would be a real surprise to me. But in any event, as the member knows, there are a number of groups that are interested in this legislation and we all look forward to full hearings and hearing those views.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Does somebody else want to make comments or questions on the member's statement? If not, would the member wish to respond?

**Mr Breaugh:** Very quickly, we have just seen an example of what I think is the problem. When you stand up in here and say, "My tenants ask me for this and this bill does exactly this," you are on the wrong road. No bill that anybody has ever devised solves everybody's problems, and it is really quite wrong and politically stupid to say so. This bill is an attempt—

**Ms Poole:** It solves those problems.

**Mr Breaugh:** See, the member interjects again that this bill solves those problems. If you are so naïve as to—

**The Deputy Speaker:** No interjections and the member will respond through the Speaker.

**Mr Breaugh:** —even entertain for a moment that any bunch of words you put on a piece of paper ever solved anybody's problems, you really ought to go and get a lobotomy done. Bills do not do that; governments and their practices do that. That is the shortfall I am trying to raise and point out this afternoon, that you cannot solve problems by putting words on pieces of paper. The problem-solving begins the day after a bill is passed into law and you begin to practise that.

That has been the difficulty I have tried to point out to this government so far. It is not all the shortcomings that are in the laws. That is not the problem. But when someone brings a problem to the government's attention, such as the ones I outlined here, and the government response is, "Well, we're not sure we can get a successful prosecution, so we won't prosecute," then the law is of no practical use to anybody. That is the difficulty.

We have had two of the Toronto members kind of stand up and lecture us on what it is like to be a tenant in Ontario. I just want to conclude by saying that it is not the truth; it really is not. Tenants in other parts of the province face very different situations than they do in the city of Toronto or in Metropolitan Toronto. They have much less in the way of resources to turn to. They have unique sets of problems. That has been one of the difficulties, that much of the law regarding landlords and tenants in Ontario is drafted with the Toronto mentality and it simply does not fit anywhere else in the province.

**Mr Harris:** I want to say a few words on behalf of my party on second reading of Bill 211, An Act to revise the Rental Housing Protection Act. Let me say from the outset that we do not support this bill. I believe it is another example of the short-term, shortsighted policies the Liberals specialize in.

Bill 211 does not address the long-term problem of supply that is hurting the people of Ontario. It merely addresses or attempts to address some of the symptoms of the problem and will, I believe and my party believes, cause further depletion in the supply of rental housing. We believe it will ensure the decay of the existing rental stock. We believe this bill will hurt both landlords and tenants.

In 1986, the Premier (Mr Peterson) said the newly introduced Rental Housing Protection Act was a "short-term measure to combat the real crisis of affordable housing in Ontario and it will

be replaced with a new housing policy after two years." Another Liberal promise broken. After two years, the Minister of Housing introduced Bill 108 to extend the Rental Housing Protection Act for another year, so that at that time she could "facilitate public input into the development of a long-term policy." Another Liberal promise broken.

After three years, they have still not developed a long-term policy for housing, so along comes Bill 211. The bill does not incorporate any of the policy alternatives outlined in her discussion paper, *Future Directions*. It does not address the problems of supply and it does not address the problems of deterioration of rental stock or the real crisis of affordable housing that the Premier spoke of three years ago.

After three years of consultation, analysis and discussion, the minister has merely extended old legislation by closing a vacant property loophole and providing a penalty for landlords who harass their tenants. She says, "These changes will protect those people who live in rental accommodation and will protect rental housing supply."

We see a number of problems with the minister's approach. First, we believe this legislation will hurt the supply of rental units by inhibiting private sector investment in the rental market. We have already seen how the Minister of Housing's policies have discouraged private sector involvement. We have seen how the private sector has left the rental housing sector since 1985. Before the Liberals took over the government, almost 80 per cent of new rental units were built by the private sector, without a single solitary cent of taxpayers' money. Now less than 20 per cent of the rental stock is built by the private sector.

Now the minister is proposing to include condominium units under the Rental Housing Protection Act and we anticipate that another source of housing will dry up.

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We know the minister has damaged investor confidence by not honouring the sunset provision in the 1986 Rental Housing Protection Act. The minister has noted on a number of occasions the importance of forging lines of co-operation and communication with the building industry. I suggest to the minister that an important aspect of trust and co-operation is the practice of keeping her word and keeping her government's word, not deciding in midstream that a short-term measure would become permanent legislation.

Second, there is positively no incentive to renovate and repair apartment stock. Rather than

protecting rental stock, I believe this act will ensure its slow decay. The city of Toronto has estimated that \$2 billion worth of repairs will be needed over the next 25 years to maintain the city's 88,000 existing high-rise units. Low-rise units are deteriorating as well. The Ministry of Housing has created a situation where it is more advantageous for a landlord to allow a building to fall into an unsafe or unfit condition than to repair it. We believe incentives for carrying out necessary repairs and the ability to do maintenance and renovation should be encouraged, not inhibited.

The Residential Rent Regulation Act and the Landlord and Tenant Act already cover both renovations and repairs. Both acts put the onus on the landlord to prove both need and cost. We believe these acts adequately protect tenants if these acts are enforced.

When it developed the low-rise rehabilitation program, the government recognized that repair and maintenance of rental stock was needed. Now, if Bill 211 is passed, landlords who have received loans will have to obtain approval for the proposed renovations from municipal council. In essence, a program that was designed to encourage landlords to maintain rental stock is being undermined by a piece of legislation from the same minister.

The bill is also an example of the Peterson government's Metropolitan Toronto-centred policies. Condominium conversion was a problem that was particularly prevalent in Metro. Yet all municipalities, regardless of vacancy rates, will be covered by Bill 211. The bill dumps the work and expense of administration of the bill on to the municipalities. This is yet another example of this government's wanting to pass a bill and then dumping it all off on to the municipalities for the cost and expense of implementation.

All municipalities will have the administrative burden of approving conversion proposals, even if there are no rental housing shortages in the municipality. We know many municipalities have been able to deal expeditiously with applications for conversions by tying approval to the municipal vacancy rates. Now the ability to deal in a flexible fashion in response to the needs of the area is being taken away from the municipal government as well.

Bill 211 denies individuals the right to buy properties. We in the Conservative Party believe in home ownership. We believe home ownership is something all Ontarians should be able to aspire to. In a recent survey conducted by Elliott Research, two thirds of all Toronto tenants

surveyed believe they should be allowed to buy their apartments provided those who wished to continue to rent had security of tenure. Conversion of apartments to condominiums could provide homes at prices estimated at 25 per cent less than current market prices.

The Peterson government has denied tenants of Cedar Grove, High Park and Bretton Place the opportunity to purchase their units, despite the fact they had offered security of tenure for those who wished to remain tenants. The result of what the government has done over the past three years is that the tenants of Cedar Grove, High Park and Bretton Place have less security of tenure than they would have had had their conversion proposal gone through.

The vast majority of those tenants wanted to buy the units. They were denied that opportunity of home ownership because of the sale of the whole building that took place after they were prevented from buying by the temporary legislation of this government. The government should look at what the temporary legislation did and what the net result was to see whether it should have permanent legislation.

Those who wanted to buy were denied the opportunity. As a result, the owner sold the entire building. They went through the government's horrendous rent review proposal, and the tenants who are still there and would have been guaranteed to be there virtually for their lifetime are paying much higher rents than they would have had to pay had the conversion been allowed to proceed. The minority in this case, in those buildings, was the tenants. That minority now has less secure tenure and is paying more rent. That is the net result of this temporary piece of legislation.

Does that make sense? Does nobody look? The government had a temporary piece of legislation and it was able to go in and see what the positive and negative impacts of this legislation were. I have not heard any positive ones, but I can tell members there are a lot of negative ones. Surely these three examples of a significant number of units should have been looked at to see what happens when the government intervenes in this way. Now, if at any time in the future these units become available, it is estimated they will be double the cost they were to be made available for three years ago. As well, the repairs, the maintenance and the work that needed to be done on those buildings is not being done.

There is a concern that the removal of condominium conversion bans will cause a flood of condominium conversions. The minister has

said this and the government has said this. In 1987, Quebec lifted its ban on condominium conversions and allowed conversion of rental stock. The legislation guaranteed lifetime security for those tenants who wished to remain as renters. So there is a precedent in a jurisdiction besides ours for the minister to see that condominium conversion can be established in an orderly fashion that protects tenants. That was the proposal of the Cedar Grove, High Park and Bretton Place buildings three years ago. Those tenants who did not want to buy would be given lifetime security of tenure, something they do not have now.

It is also worth noting the vacancy rate in Montreal in 1989 is four per cent, a far cry from the 0.3 per cent vacancy rate in Toronto, which is the lowest vacancy rate in Canada despite the minister's boasts about the significant amount of housing stock she has created. Obviously, the housing stock the government has been able to afford is not nearly enough. Obviously, it does not have enough money. There is not enough money in the country for the government to build and subsidize all the housing units required.

The Conservatives know, and anyone who is trying to rent knows that the vacancy rate in almost every major centre in Ontario is effectively a zero vacancy rate. Even if someone can find a vacant apartment to rent, it is probably going to cost far more than the person can afford to pay because we have not been able to get at the supply problems. The policies the government has brought in have substantially increased the supply problems.

We believe the minister should be addressing the problems of supply, not limiting supply. We think the minister should be encouraging the maintenance of housing stock, not inhibiting it. We also think the minister should be listening to the people who are involved and affected by the pending legislation. She has taken two years to consult. The result is that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Fair Rental Policy Organization of Ontario and the Urban Development Institute of Canada say they have been ignored. The list is almost endless.

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We believe the minister is taking a step which she says will protect renters and rental housing supply in a tight vacancy situation which we believe very strongly to have been exacerbated by the Peterson government policies. Now the minister is proposing legislation where, in the words of John Bassel, "Those of modest income are prevented from owning their own homes,

needed repairs are prevented from being undertaken, investors are deterred from participating, new rental housing is not built, ripple effects flow out causing other housing shortages and finally, government is required to intervene even more aggressively with more and more resources, and it all makes little sense."

I have said before in another debate to some interventionist, draconian piece of legislation the minister had brought in—I cannot remember which one it is; they are all that way—that this government seems to have a political philosophy that I suppose it thinks will win votes. It seems to have a philosophy that if a thing moves one must tax it, if it still moves one regulates it and if it is still moving and still working by some stretch of the imagination, one taxes and regulates it some more. When it has been brought to its knees and it stops moving, then one announces a government program. So one creates a problem, makes the problem worse and then announces from one's white horse: "The government will help. We will come out with a program that will help."

Instead of looking at what is causing the problem and solving it, the government is encouraging problems to continue, making them worse and costing taxpayers billions of dollars with its silly regulations and with the silly necessity for the government now to subsidize—I suggest to the government if it carries on—probably every house in the province and every tenant in the province. It makes little sense.

We have seen how ineffectual the ministry is in other programs. Rent review, which has cost the taxpayer \$40 million a year, has resulted in over 100,000 units being backlogged, a program for which the administrative costs alone have gone up fivefold, and that is hurting both the landlords and the tenants who are involved in it.

Tenants and landlords are saying: "It doesn't work. We need changes." These are the two principal groups that this legislation is supposed to bring together. Both of them are saying it does not work and it is causing problems. Does that legislation that affects tenants and landlords—they both come to the minister and say: "It is not working. It is a disaster"—not tell her something about the legislation? But she will not listen to them either.

Now we think she is proposing a policy that will be equally ineffective, that will consume vast amounts of time and money and ultimately result in less housing stock than before she started. She has done nothing to alleviate the crisis in affordable housing. In the three years since the Rental Housing Protection Act was

imposed, the vacancy rate in Metropolitan Toronto areas remains virtually zero and extremely depressed. This is destructive legislation. It will inhibit private investment in the rental market, ensure the slow decay of rental stock, increase administrative work and expense for municipalities and deny tenants the right to affordable homes.

We have heard the minister say, time and again, that her concern as Minister of Housing is to make sure that people have as many choices as possible in housing and as much diversity as possible in their choices. That is what the minister says, but under her leadership people in Ontario have fewer choices than they have ever had before in housing, and for many people the question has become, "How can I even get a roof over my head?" We believe that this bill is another nail in the coffin of home ownership, another step in drying up and destroying housing stock.

I have spoken before in this House, either during question period or through statements or in other debates that we have had. I have talked about the real problems that are there. The minister gives answers like: "We have provided protection for tenants from key money. We have provided protection from increased rents. We have provided protection from conversion of their units into condominiums." She is proud of all of this protection that they have provided. The tenants do not think they are getting it, by the way.

But I ask, right to the very core of what the minister is doing, does she not want to sit back and ask: Why do tenants feel they need protection from landlords? Why does nobody want to be in the rental business? One of the great investment opportunities that people aspired to was to own a home, to own a small building where they could rent out a couple of units, where they could own the property. Surely in years gone by that was one of the most time-honoured and honourable professions, if you like: that of being a landlord; that desire of people to invest their money, to put it in, to go in and work themselves, to do the repairs.

I think of many couples who have said: "This will help us to retire. Instead of buying 85 cars and 32 TVs and taking trips every year, we will take our money and we will invest it. We will build one or two or three or four units. We will work hard. That is where our money will go. That will be our retirement plan, instead of waiting for the government to look after us in retirement. That is what we will do with our

money. We will not fritter our money away. We will do that."

Now nobody wants to do that. The question, I think, that has to be asked is, why do landlords not want to be landlords? Why do ordinary residents, ordinary men and women, now think that absolutely the last thing in the world they want to do is to get into the rental business? Why do those in the rental business say: "Get me out. I don't want to be in this any more"?

Those are the questions that should be asked. Those are the problems that should be solved. The government should solve those problems and look at the infrastructure required of serviced land, roads, transportation, parks and schools and look at all of that planning that it did not do. When new people came into the province, all the government did was grab the money. It forgot that there are services that have to be provided to the people who come in and give it all this money.

The government announced new program after new program after new program. They spent double the rate of inflation—two and a half or three times, one year, the rate of inflation—on all of these new things they promised, forgetting that when new people come in to give them all this money, they need a place to live. They need a school; they need sewer, water and garbage services.

The government forgot that. Now they are all in a crisis situation and now the government is lashing out. They blame the municipalities. They will not allow this; they will not do that. They blame the school boards and say: "You are not doing this. You are not doing that." I do not understand how government members can come in here without bags over their faces and not be so embarrassed at even showing up here with the mess that they have created in this province. I really do not understand that.

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I say to the minister that, instead of this piece of legislation, which will cause more problems, which will drive more people out of this business, she should ask herself, why does nobody want to be a landlord any more? Why do people want to get out of that business? Why do they not want to rent a unit in their homes?

I am sure the minister has seen the study that I think 27,000 units over the past five years have been lost out of single homes where there used to be a basement apartment or there used to be one or two apartments. People said: "No, I'm not having any more tenants in here. Everything is stacked against me."

Not only are we not encouraging the infilling the minister talks about, encouraging people to rent out an extra unit to pay the horrific property taxes that her government's policies are imposing on them, but it is not worth the hassle. They do not want to do it and those who are in it want out of the business.

Until they answer those questions and until they put the balance back into all the accumulation of the pieces of legislation they have, they will for ever have to draw on more and more tax dollars, to regulate more, to intervene more, to take away one person's rights to try to provide a home for another person's rights.

We in this party believe they are moving 100 per cent in the wrong direction. We think the proof of the pudding is that every time they come in with a new bill, a new piece of regulation and new controls, the situation gets worse. We think it gets worse. That is the proof, and yet they persist in these policies, they persist in making the problem worse. They persist in driving any private sector involvement in providing rental accommodation right out of here and they require more and more government dollars, more and more government programs and more and more tax dollars.

This is bad legislation and I and my party intend to oppose it.

**Mr Philip:** I always listen, particularly lately, to the remarks of the member for Nipissing (Mr Harris), because he may well be the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party. Considering his talents and his likeable personality and considering the alternatives, I do not think that would be an unreasonable decision for a party of the extreme right.

In his comments on this bill, he has gone far beyond this bill. In fact, he has talked about what he believes are the effects of intervention by government on supply. He has talked about the present legislation, including the present rent review legislation, as interventionist, draconian legislation, notwithstanding the fact that his party voted for that legislation; ours did not.

My question for the member for Nipissing is this: If the present legislation, including rent review, is draconian legislation and if this interventionist legislation intervenes with the supply of housing, is it his position that rent review should be abolished?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr M. C. Ray):** Does the member for Nipissing care to respond?

**Mr Harris:** Yes, I am pleased to respond briefly to the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale (Mr Philip) and say this. First of all, the member

indicated that my party supported the existing rent review legislation back in 1985 and he is quite right, my party did, which allowed his party to vote against it, if members will recall the circumstances of that minority Parliament.

Let me also say this. At that particular time we supported the legislation on the basis of tenants who came to us and said, "We think this might work," and landlords who came to us and said, "We think it might work," and, quite frankly, we were wrong. From the point of view of my own personal vote at that particular time, I think history has shown that this legislation was totally unworkable. I am not afraid—

**Mr D. R. Cooke:** You've 40 seconds left, Mike. Are you for it or against it?

**Hon Mr Elston:** Answer the question.

**Mr Harris:** Listen, the landlords, the tenants and the analysts who encouraged us to support it have all now said, "We were wrong." They have also said it is not just the incompetence of the government, although there is a substantial amount of that, that does not allow this act to be administered; in fact, they say the legislation itself, in spite of the government's incompetence, is so badly flawed that it indeed is unworkable.

Interjections.

**Mr Harris:** I say to members that I have no hesitation in saying that this legislation ought to be scrapped and we ought to be looking at other alternatives. Further, because of all the interventions and the racket, I did not get a chance to go to the second part of the question and I would be glad to do that at some future time.

**Mr Philip:** The minister commenced her remarks on this bill by a series of promises that she intends to create a number of nonprofit rental units. This announcement has been made on a number of occasions, and if the promises are kept in the way in which she has kept the past promises, we will be a long time in waiting for it. If we look at this act, we can see that it covers not just this minister but indeed goes back even further, to the previous minister, the member for Scarborough North (Mr Curling).

On 2 July 1986, in dealing with the predecessor to this bill, he said, "The Rental Housing Protection Act will provide a breathing space while the pressures for demolition, conversion and luxury upgrading are reduced through our rent review and housing supply initiatives." That was on 2 July 1986.

Now we have the minister saying, and I have her statement which was given on 31 January

1989 when she introduced the act, "It is clear that the market conditions which prompted this government to implement the Rental Housing Protection Act in the first place have not changed to a significant degree."

In July 1986, the then Liberal Housing minister, the member for Scarborough North, said: "We need temporary legislation because you have to give the government some time to bring in something that is going to deal with the present crisis." Now on 31 January 1989 we have the minister admitting that the crisis still exists.

If there was ever an admission of the failure of this government to deal with the problem, it is the ministers' own words. One minister says, "We've got a major problem but we're going to deal with it," and then several years later the next Liberal Minister of Housing says, "We've still got a problem so we've got to do something."

During her remarks in introducing the bill she said that during the past nine months the parliamentary assistant for Housing had held extensive discussions with a wide range of landlord organizations, tenant groups and municipal representatives. But if you look at this bill, you realize that some of the concerns of the very tenant representatives that she says her parliamentary assistant has been meeting with are not reflected in the bill.

We will see this as the bill goes out to committee. We will have these groups come forward and we will see what their major concerns are and how their concerns are not reflected in this bill and how section 24, in particular, is clearly inadequate.

The minister said, "Vacancy rates remain low in most major urban centres and the demand for rental housing remains high at a time of heavy in-migration to Ontario." She said, "Second, it is apparent that we must provide a legal framework to restrict those activities which reduce the stock of rental housing in the province." She also said, "Third, it is clear that the existing legislative framework has generally been successful in preventing a reduction in the rental housing stock."

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The fact is that it has not and the example she gives is clearly inappropriate. She says, for example, "In Metropolitan Toronto only 74 units have been converted since July 1986." What she fails to take into account, of course, is that the major conversions have been to those buildings that have been built since 1986 and labelled not as rental buildings, although they have been

operated as rental buildings, but registered as condominiums. That is where the major conversions are taking place.

Indeed, if we look at what exactly happens, about 80 per cent of the buildings constructed since 1976 fall under this category. It is simply downright misleading for her to say that this bill stops conversions when de facto conversions are taking place all the time and when 80 per cent of the rental buildings were apartments, a majority of whose units are rented out and are, in fact, open to conversion.

When I raised the issue with her on 7 January 1988, I pointed out that a major problem faced Metropolitan Toronto in particular, but also Mississauga and as we get east of the city we also run into the same problem; in my own riding, 47.9 per cent of the rental units that are available are registered as condominiums.

The minister expressed some concern about this. She said: "There will be a discussion paper issued and all the concerns he has raised will be part of it. We will be talking to all the people who are concerned about this and will try very hard to protect the interests of tenants." Well, she has talked, or at least the Federation of Metro Toronto Tenants' Associations has talked to her. They have expressed their concerns, other tenant groups have expressed their concerns to her and she has not taken into account their concerns. Or if she has taken them into account, she has simply disregarded them.

We have a situation where an act is introduced that clearly avoids dealing with the major issue of urban areas such as Metropolitan Toronto, namely, that the major number of de facto conversions, the major number of rental units built after 1976 are not covered by this bill and are being converted as we talk.

On 27 April 1988 she said: "The commitment I made was that we would consider the whole issue when we looked at the Rental Housing Protection Act." She said it was a complex issue, adding: "That is the reason we have to look at all the different angles in order to come up with the appropriate answer. We will do that. Everything the member has said I will take very seriously as we come to our conclusions." It is not just me who is saying it; it is the tenants' groups that have been saying it. She has not taken it into account, or if she has taken it into account, she has decided that the interests of the large developers are more important than the interests of the tenants.

Tenants such as those living at 2645 Kipling Avenue in the riding that I represent have lived in a building for nine years which they thought was

a rental building only to discover that they are now being evicted to make room for the purchasers of their apartments.

In my own riding, to the best of my knowledge, all the private rental buildings constructed after 1978 have been designated as condominiums. Thus in the riding I represent alone, the riding of Etobicoke-Rexdale, we are talking about 3,495 tenants who are not covered by this bill and who can lose their apartments, unless they happen to have the capital to buy those apartments. That is not only bad news for tenants; it is also not to the advantage of the consumer.

I have listened to the member for Nipissing talk about how wonderful it would be if High Park buildings were converted into condos. I have listened to the present member for High Park-Swansea (Mr Fleet), as well as the previous member, Mr Shymko, preach a similar line. But what they have failed to take into account is what happens to the tenants who cannot afford to buy their own units or to the elderly persons who do not want to have the responsibility of ownership. If we look at what happens to them, I ask the members what happens to the consumer who does feel under pressure and purchases the unit?

I have a building right now in the riding I represent. It is a rental building that has been converted, because it was registered as a condominium. The new owners have come to me. I suggested a lawyer specializing in condominium issues to assist them, along with myself. They are captive, as minority interest holders, in a building where the owner of the building has sold off only a fraction of the units.

They are in the position that they can take whatever limited powers they have under the Condominium Act to try and have access to his books, to try and have representation, and if things really get bad, to go to the mortgage company and say, "Look, we have a real problem here; you had better start using your proxies." But if they do that, they create a major problem with their investment, because once word gets out that this is a problem building, if they are ever in a position where they have to move, they find that they have trouble selling. They are in a catch-22 position.

These are not rich people. They are people who felt that they had nowhere to move and therefore they had better buy their own unit, or they are relatively poor or working class people who were looking around for a condominium, could not afford the traditional resale condominium, and therefore bought something that was

perhaps less expensive in order to get into home ownership. They are in a minority interest position, with very few rights and in a very awkward position indeed.

Condo conversion has not proven to be that great panacea to help people get into the home ownership market.

I heard one of the previous Liberal speakers say, "Well, you know, this act protects tenants from being coerced." Let me read a letter that tenants in my riding have received. This is from a company called Willow Pond. They are the representatives or the agents for the tenants at 234 Albion Rd. This is a letter that I brought to the minister's attention in December 1987. Of course, she has not responded to the problems faced by these people, but let me read it to members. I ask you, Mr Speaker, if you as an independent person would not say that these people are being coerced.

"On 1 December 1987, our company has become the managers of this building for new owners. Our resident superintendents names are"—they name them—"and their assistant superintendents are"—they name them too. "Our office is...."

So far it is good news. That is the first paragraph. "Here's who you can contact and we are willing to help."

In the second paragraph, though, things start turning a little sour: "Over the next year, all the apartments in this building will be sold to owner-occupiers. Towards the end of your lease, you will be given a notice that your lease will not be renewed, as that apartment has been sold and the purchaser would like to live in the apartment. This is exactly the same procedure as has been carried out over the past year at 238 Albion Road. We may be able to help you find another apartment." Whoopee, they are going to help them find another apartment.

"We manage 236 Albion Road and several other apartment buildings...." With the vacancy rate, you may be sure how successful they will be in helping them, of course.

Then it goes on to say, "We apologize for any inconvenience that you are going to experience because we are going to do a lot of reconstruction work prior to selling off your units."

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That letter is clearly very coercive to the disabled person. I had a disabled person in a wheelchair who wrote to me and called me, crying about this. He said: "I am not in a position, on my very limited pension, to buy my apartment. I don't feel that I should go into an

institution, and yet here I am as an independent person trying to live a life without rental housing subsidy, but I am faced with a very difficult situation."

It is fairly clear that what the minister has done is break her promise to the tenants who have written to her and the associations that have contacted her. She has broken her promise to a majority of the tenants living in buildings built in this province, in this city, since 1976.

I guess we should not be too surprised that this government breaks promises. It has broken a number of other promises on everything from Sunday shopping to lowering automobile insurance, but one has to say that this was a fairly specific, concrete proposal.

The former Minister of Housing said he was bringing in interim legislation because plans were on the way to deal with the problem. The minister later, in promises to me, said that she was going to deal with the problem and that the tenants were going to be protected. Now today, and in her announcement on 31 January of this year when she introduced this bill, she says, "We have solved the problems." She has not solved the problems.

The majority of tenants living in a majority of the new buildings built since 1976 are being evicted. They are being evicted in my riding and in Scarborough. They are being evicted in Mississauga. We have countless cases; we have plenty of examples. I have given just a few of them.

The minister has not listened to the requests on this matter by the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations and other tenant groups. We hope she will be more receptive to their requests and pleas when they come before the committee.

**Mr Fleet:** It is indeed curious to listen to the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale with his anti-condominium perspective which seems to leave no room for reality to creep in. The issue that he dealt with, the supply of condominiums being built in Metropolitan Toronto and elsewhere in Ontario, just does not seem to reflect the facts.

I have in my hand the booklet called Rental Housing Protection Act: Future Directions. It was issued at the start of this process. The government set out to review all the options to consider, all the suggestions from different groups, and in fact that has been outlined by a number of speakers here. It says:

"The current boom in apartment condominium starts, particularly within Metro Toronto, has led to an increase in the supply of rental units as smaller investors use condominiums as a form of

investment." It also states, "The recent surge in condominium construction is an important source of supply for the rental market."

It is not good enough, quite frankly, for the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale to look only at places where somebody might sell a unit and then, as a result, a new owner would move in. You have to look at the whole issue of construction.

On the whole, as more condominiums are being built, there are more rental units available. That is a fact, a reality the member seeks to avoid. There is probably no sizeable condominium anywhere in Ontario that does not have a number of units—in some cases, many units—being rented.

If the member is unable to understand how he is going to inform tenants—and I can appreciate that some tenants might be concerned, if they are not aware of the fact that their building is a condominium and if conceivably it might be sold at some point—then I suggest that he quite simply write them a letter and tell them. He can get a list of all the condominiums in his municipality quite easily from the local city hall, and he can simply inform people. It is not hard to do; it is quite easy, in fact. I urge the member, if that is a problem, to deal with it that way.

**Mr Philip:** The member for High Park-Swansea says that I am somehow anticondominium. Of course, I happen to be the only politician in Canada who has been honoured with a professional membership in the Canadian Condominium Institute, an institute which he probably does not even know exists, but it is known to condominium owners and to those involved in condominiums.

The member for High Park-Swansea says that a majority of rental units being built are condominium units. Of course, the condominiums that are being built now are all in the luxury, very high-rental area. If he only read the condominium and time-sharing magazine published in the city by David Medhurst, then he would recognize that is the case. The very fact that some luxury condominiums are being built that will rent for \$1,400 a month or so does not solve the rental housing problem that the member's government fails to deal with.

His colleagues before him, unlike him but very much more like his predecessor Mr Shymko, were against the conversion of those High Park condominiums. They were against them for the same reason the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations was against those conversions: namely, a lot of tenants would be displaced.

I say to the member for High Park-Swansea, perhaps he should read the literature; perhaps he should consult with people such as David Medhurst or other people who have been active in the condominium field. Indeed, he might like to read some of the speeches I have given in this Legislature or at the Canadian Condominium Institute's annual meeting when I was honoured as being one of the recipients of the annual Person of the Year award for contributions to condominium legislation and condominium thinking in this province. Perhaps he should have read some of those things.

**Ms Bryden:** I share with my colleagues the extreme doubts about whether this bill will solve the many problems that are facing tenants with regard to meeting demands by landlords for their space.

We know there has been a tremendous loss of housing stock in the city of Toronto due to conversions and demolitions in the last five or six years, and we have attempted in the Planning Act to have demolition legislation that would prevent demolitions involving rental housing in order to protect the housing stock. Unfortunately, the legislation is not nearly strong enough and the tenants are not given much time to organize themselves into a co-op or some tenants' organization that could purchase the property. That is an area where we need more protection.

We know that the Rental Housing Protection Act, when it was originally passed in 1986, was put in to prevent the loss of housing stock by protecting tenants in such buildings. But we also know that it very soon became known to be a very weak sort of protection and therefore demands continued for amending and revamping the legislation.

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As my colleagues and others in the House have told the minister today, these demands were finally met two years later when it was extended for a year in order to permit study of the flaws in the act, but it was extended without any spelling out of how the legislation was going to be amended, so that was only a stopgap measure and the evictions and demolitions and conversions continued to go on, but at a true abuse of the powers that were available to landlords to get control of the property.

The one thing the Rental Housing Protection Act did say was that the municipality had to okay a conversion. Unfortunately, we have found that not all municipalities were sympathetic to preserving housing stock and therefore they did not always use this power, nor could the loss of

the housing and the demolition and the conversion be stopped if the property became vacant. That was due to a recent court decision.

We are desperately in need of much stronger legislation to prevent the loss of housing stock. The act is called the Rental Housing Protection Act and this new bill is an attempt to provide that sort of protection. However, we have studied this act very closely and we have also consulted with many tenants' organizations and we have heard from many people in rental housing who have been evicted and have not been able to get the protection of the present act. These people feel that the new amendment, the new version of the Rental Housing Protection Act, is still very flawed. This is why we are opposing this bill and saying, "Go back to the drawing board and bring us in a real Rental Housing Protection Act which will prevent the sort of practices that have been going on."

In my own riding, I have had a number of houses up on Kingston Road where the tenants have been harassed out of the buildings and the landlord has then been able to get vacant possession and has been able to get a new development plan arranged for this housing. The new plan will be for much higher rents in much more elaborate accommodation. The tenants themselves who were in the old housing stock have disappeared as a result of this harassment and as a result of not knowing what their rights were and how to oppose the methods that were used to evict them.

I draw the members' attention to 500 and 504 Kingston Road, formerly known as the Wallfield Arms. We found out that the owners applied unethical and probably illegal methods to rid the building complex of its tenants. Even while the tenants remained in their apartments, the landlord proceeded to board up the buildings and to give them a derelict appearance. Tenants were then told that they had to get out immediately because the building had been condemned. This was not the case.

Through complaints relayed from my office to the buildings and inspection branch at the city of Toronto, the owners of the building had been served with an extensive list of work orders, with which they never complied. These did not necessitate removal of the tenants in order to implement the work orders.

The lawyers for the owners also maintained that all tenants who had been issued eviction notices were behind in their rent. The way this worked, it would appear, was that the landlord asked for a large rent increase and had not gone

through rent review to validate it, but gave the impression to the tenants that if they did not accept this rent they were in arrears. This is, of course, a completely incorrect interpretation of the rent review and rent increase legislation, because the tenant has the choice of refusing to pay the increase until such time as it is confirmed or rejected by a rent review officer, or he can pay and then presumably get a refund if the proposed rent is rejected.

But there were much worse things done both in this building and in two or three others in my riding. Sometimes they cut telephone wires. Sometimes, presumably the building's agents or somebody who was allowed in, interfered with mail or would enter apartments without permission. We are told that in some cases payments were offered to tenants to induce them to leave the building. Hot water was cut off sometimes or maintenance that was absolutely essential to the comfort of the tenants, such as heating repairs, was not carried out.

The police, the buildings inspection staff and the Ministry of Health were all called to the building very frequently, but they could not keep up with these many violations. It appeared that the owners were blatantly using, or misusing, the law in order to harass the tenants out. In some cases, I even heard that the landlord hired a big, burly, unsavoury-looking character as a tenant. He may not have hired him, but he gave him residence in the apartment. This person went around bursting into peoples' apartments without permission, harassing them in the halls and generally intimidating them, so that they felt they had no real security in the building as long as this type of tenant was being allowed in.

I think this is the sort of thing that makes us nervous about whether this legislation is going to be effective. I do want to mention one of the reasons why it is not very effective, and I think this is why we need a new law. One of those reasons is information to tenants in housing where they are not organized into tenants' associations.

In the past half-hour, I phoned the two numbers in the Toronto phone book, the Landlord and Tenants Advisory Bureau and the Landlord-Tenant Action Centre. These are two separate listings. Neither of them said they were a government office. Neither of them could tell me exactly what sort of work they did. One of them offered to take my number and call me back on it. There does not appear to be any very good information system in the ministry to tell tenants what their rights are, how they can fight the kind

of harassment that has been going on and how they can protect themselves in order to protect their housing.

I think it is true that the blue pages give five regional offices of the ministry, but unless the tenants know that these offices would give them advice and help in fighting a landlord, most of them would not call those offices for help. I think the ministry has to do a big job, first of all, in apprising tenants of their rights and then in assisting them when a situation occurs where a landlord tries to get the tenants out and tries to get vacant possession.

1700

Of course, the law must remove the effect of that court case which says that once you get vacant possession you can do what you like with the building, because that is just an invitation for landlords to get vacant possession quickly and through illegal methods before the law catches up with them. If vacant possession is considered permission to go ahead with or without municipal approval, then there will certainly be a lot of continuing harassment.

The other thing, of course, is that under the present shortage of housing most tenants cannot take advantage of the Rental Housing Protection Act, even if it had teeth in it. That is because they are intimidated and terrified by the shortage of affordable rental housing in the whole metropolitan area and in large areas of southern Ontario. As long as that state of shortage continues, you will have a great inability of tenants to protect themselves.

Even the tenants' associations, which do a very good job of trying to protect the tenants who approach them, are unable to serve the great numbers who need service in situations that are reported to them. They do assist people in forming tenants' associations. They do, in some cases, provide them with legal services, either at cost or subsidized. That is all very necessary. Those tenants' associations, if they are going to fulfil that role for the Housing ministry to assist tenants in asserting their rights, should be subsidized to a much greater extent. The ministry should not be relying on them to do its work in helping tenants in distress.

That is another area where the ministry must show that there is going to be action on the housing supply side and not just attempt to put more clauses into the Rental Housing Protection Act, which sounds as though the minister is waving the big stick at landlords but will be very difficult to enforce, will set tenants up against high-priced lawyers and in many cases the

ministry will be pursuing long after the event landlords who do violate the act. The landlord by that time may have changed his corporation number. He may be very difficult to get at.

I think, as others have mentioned in this debate, the amount of administrative machinery—and the costs of it—that the ministry will have to set up to implement this law is simply mind-boggling. That does not mean we should not try to protect tenants, but we should do it in ways that the tenants themselves have been involved in and that they know are workable and enforceable.

I think that is one of the greatest reasons why this law is flawed; that is, that very few tenants were consulted on the drafting of it.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** Do you support the bill, Marion?

**Ms Bryden:** No, I said I think it is flawed. The member got my message.

**Hon Mr Sorbara:** Do you support it?

**The Deputy Speaker:** No interjections, and the member will address her remarks through the Speaker, of course.

**Ms Bryden:** As I say, the government could do much better if it had a bill that was drafted with much more assistance from tenants' organizations and from tenants themselves. To have a couple of days of public hearings at this stage is much too late to fix up a badly flawed bill of that sort.

If there is any criticism of the fact there will be a few more affordable housing units lost, then I think the onus is on the government to say it was the fault of the government for bringing in completely unenforceable legislation. Therefore, not having sat down in that whole year that it had after it extended the bill from 1988 to 1989, it is now about to expire in 1989.

The government is the one that will have to justify what happens when we ask it to go back and produce a workable bill, but at least in the meantime it can set up an adequate information service for tenants who are affected by the unscrupulous landlords' practices. It can also provide a government-operated agency, particularly in places as big as downtown Toronto, which will give tenants much more assistance in fighting applications by landlords for conversions.

It should also be working with the municipal governments to make sure that they exercise whatever right the bill gives them to veto the proposals for demolition or conversion and to see that the tenants who are in affordable housing

right now do not end up out on the street or facing landlords' proposals for renovations which will be at least enough to give the landlord some claim for additional rents. In many cases, some very minor cosmetic renovations have been accepted by rent review adjudicators as reasons for allowing very substantial rent increases.

I think the huge applications for rent increases which are coming from many landlords are a part of the intimidation that is also going on. I think they are all taking lessons from each other as to how to get vacant possession of the buildings right now. Some of them are asking for a 100 per cent increase in rent, which simply results in many tenants not fighting back because they do not know to do it in many cases, but instead simply moving to some other, often much less desirable place. I think that kind of intimidation should also be looked upon by rent review adjudicators and rent review boards as another form of intimidation that should be outlawed, or at least not countenanced by rent review boards.

The pass-through of increases in mortgage costs is limited to some extent now, but it should be much more strictly limited to prevent the tenants being asked to pay for land speculation, which is what it really is amounting to.

I think there are many reasons for rejecting this bill at present, but I am hoping that the ministry will bring in a new one very soon and will institute some meaningful consultation with all the people concerned. Our objective is to get decent rental protection legislation and to get more affordable housing in sight in the city of Toronto.

So far, I have not seen the minister's 25 per cent requirement of affordable housing—which she is asking the municipalities to follow—being honoured by many of the more affluent municipalities in Metropolitan Toronto or in other fast-growing parts of the province. It is simply not enough to tell people that the guideline is 25 per cent. It seems to me that there should be much stricter requirements on the developers who present a proposal not only to provide 25 per cent affordable housing but also to clarify what that statement means.

1710

I think we should also be considering whether we are going to allow the tremendous waste of land and resources in these million-dollar luxury accommodations that are going up around this city and the environs or out along the GO train lines. It seems to me it is a misuse of resources when there are so many people needing housing, to be building million-dollar, half-million-dollar

condos, to be building houses that look like castles and have 5,000 square feet when most people would be happy to have 3,000 or even less.

Maybe a development tax on those big houses might be something the government could think of. Those that are benefiting from all our services that are now spread far and wide to accommodate the urban sprawl that is being encouraged by those huge lots and by giving more GO service to those people should be paying a bigger share of the costs of helping people produce more urban sprawl.

It is somewhat similar to the new tax that the greater Toronto area people are being asked to pay for living in a commercially significant and growing area, where it is said that all of us are responsible for all the extra costs in the greater Toronto area of transportation and road building and so on, so we are going to have to pay more for parking lots and more for commercial buildings, but this is all, of course, going to be added into the prices of the goods.

I think the people who are buying these big houses are the ones who should be paying a development tax. If they want this kind of real waste of our resources, they must pay for it, rather than being allowed to ride free on all the government services that we provide for such huge houses. That is another area the government might look at if it wants to provide a fair supply of affordable housing within a reasonable distance from a person's work, rather than the present system, where we are making people go farther and farther afield and are preventing more and more people from being able to rent affordable housing in the city of Toronto and are not giving them the protection they need under rental housing protection legislation.

With that, I hope the government will reconsider its bill.

**Mr Fleet:** I was quite amazed to hear that the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms Bryden) evidently is not in full discussion with the member for Oshawa about some points of this, such as the suggestion that the government had not been in consultation with tenants, although I did hear the member for Oshawa say he wanted more hearings.

The fact of the matter, as the member for Beaches-Woodbine does not appear to know, is that there was very extensive consultation with a variety of groups. There were groups such as the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations, there were groups from Ottawa—

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr Fleet:** —there was a variety of different tenants' groups with a variety of different views in some areas and there was extensive consultation with all points of view.

The least that one could acknowledge, whether you agree with the bill or not, is that in fact there was a very open process. We had the ministry providing a document I referred to earlier called Rental Housing Protection Act: Future Directions, which set out information for tenants in particular, I think, because those are the groups perhaps least able to find some of the information and with the most limited resources.

It provides an outline of all of the considerations the government had to take into account, and there is proof in the bill that it has been listening. I refer the member to section 20, which deals with harassment of tenants. This is a provision that does not exist in the current act, which provides that, if a landlord is discouraging tenants or harassing them, the landlord or the agent of a landlord is liable to a fine of a minimum of \$1,000 and a maximum of \$50,000 or imprisonment of one year.

These are very heavy penalties for anybody who contravenes the new act, and this is a way of delivering a message to all concerned that it is important that the process be respected and the tenants have an opportunity to put forth their views. It is clear evidence that the government has been listening and listening effectively.

**Ms Bryden:** With regard to the faith of the member for High Park-Swansea in the way the legislation may be enforced against harassing landlords, I think he will probably find that most of the landlords who finally get to court, if prosecutions are carried out, will have, as I say, changed the name of their company or long ago disappeared after the building has been demolished and a new one has been built.

The thing is, it is just too cumbersome to do it. Of course, as far as the consultation goes, the people who are not in tenants' associations have not been consulted. I think we do need more public hearings but I think we also have to sit down with all kinds of community groups and make sure that what we are trying to build is housing that will suit the community and not the developers. This is exactly what we are not getting in Metropolitan Toronto right now.

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** I would like to respond to a couple of the points that the member for Beaches-Woodbine made and then speak directly to the Rental Housing Protection Act.

In the course of her comments, the member for Beaches-Woodbine alleged that there was a lack of consultation with tenants on this bill. Nothing could be further from the truth. Indeed, Mr Speaker, you and members of the House may remember that, over a year ago, the Minister of Housing released for consultation a draft proposal outlining the problems associated with the Rental Housing Protection Act, the need for a review, the need for recommendations, and tenants' groups from all across this province responded.

I know the member for Beaches-Woodbine may not have been privy to their responses, but certainly she can avail herself of our ministry's services at any time and take a look at those responses, which are lengthy, well reasoned and numerous.

In addition to the fact that those consultations took place, those written briefs, there were face-to-face discussions which occurred between the minister and many tenants' groups, between myself in my capacity as parliamentary assistant and those tenants' groups, and in fact those consultations took place as recently as last Thursday.

To tell me, to tell this House that tenant consultation was absent or lacking in the case of this new bill, I am sorry, just does not hold water. The tenants have been listened to, their voices have been heard and the principles they felt were important are in fact found in this legislation.

If the member sits on the committee that is going to receive this bill for public hearings and clause-by-clause review, I am sure she will have the opportunity once again to ask the tenants if they have been heard and to ask them for their views. That is in the nature of the parliamentary process. That being so, the member herself will hear from the tenants how they feel about the legislation. To suggest otherwise offends not only myself, but the parliamentary process.

1720

Second, the member wandered into a discussion of what I thought was the issue of monster homes. Perhaps she will correct me if I am wrong, but just let me explain that issue. In many older suburban areas of Metropolitan Toronto and other large urban centres in fact, there are homes which were built quite some time ago, and now developers are buying those homes simply for the land value. The homes are being demolished and replaced by much larger homes. These are called monster homes.

Many people say, "Why don't you do something about this?" and I say, "This is the direct

responsibility of the municipal councils." Everyone in those suburban and urban areas elects municipal councillors to deal with land use planning issues. In fact, the city of Scarborough most recently, the member may know, imposed a temporary holding bylaw that would prevent the construction of any home larger than 2,500 square feet.

I share the member's concerns, if she is indeed concerned, about the monster homes, for two reasons: One, the construction of the monster homes eliminates a source of affordable housing stock for home owners. Two, it places an imposition on the neighbourhood when you get something that is three or four storeys high, extends right to lot lines and clouds out the sunshine and destroys the appearance of the neighbourhood. But really the most important issue is the elimination of what once was affordable home ownership stock.

I tell the member to go back to her municipality, to go back to her city councillor and say, "You have direct responsibility to deal with this." The city councils were elected to deal with these issues. If they do not want to deal with them, then there is something we can do about it: throw them out at the next election. But they have the responsibility; they are charged with the care of land use planning in their communities and if they do not choose to do something about it, then maybe we all should have something to say about it at the next election.

Finally, I want to get to the purpose of this bill. Prior to 1986, many members may know that—let me use the city of Toronto by way of example—there was a rapid loss of affordable rental housing stock in Toronto. I use the city of Toronto because it was perhaps the worst case but not the only bad case. My understanding is that in the period 1978 to 1985, almost 9,000 rental units in Toronto were lost or under threat of loss through demolition, conversion to condominiums or substantial upgrading that required the eviction of the tenants.

The demolitions totalled 1,434; the renovations over 3,000; condominium conversions over 1,100; the co-ownership or co-equity conversions over 900, and apartment hotels amounted to a conversion of over 2,000. In total, there were 8,744 rental units converted out of affordable rental housing stock in the period 1978 to 1985.

The bill that was passed in 1986 was intended to deal directly with those problems, and in fact it did. The number of conversions that took place in Toronto in the period 1986 to 1988 was 74. If members want to draw that on a graph, they will

see a sudden decline to near zero. In fact, the bill did the work that it should do.

There are some problems with the existing legislation. With this new legislation, we are moving to deal with those problems. The most significant is the vacant building exemption. We hope that all members will join with us to support the legislation. For one reason or another, it was found that a building that was vacant or made vacant by a landlord could be allowed to be converted without being caught under the purview of the Rental Housing Protection Act. We want to change that.

We want to prevent landlords from harassing tenants. We want to prevent landlords from illegally or legally evicting tenants so as to obtain a vacant building and thus exempt themselves from municipal council approval. Now vacant buildings, like occupied buildings, cannot be converted without municipal council approval and that municipal council approval has to be according to the criteria set out in the regulations, which will be public and for all to know.

Finally, members may know—they have heard other members talk—about the option we were faced with, and indeed some tenants advocated this option, that we allow tenants to buy the units in their apartment building. Frankly, we rejected that. That is clear. We rejected that as a policy option and for good reason.

Surveys of tenants who are now in affordable rental housing have shown that among tenants with incomes of between \$20,000 and \$39,999 only 12 per cent said they would definitely consider buying their rental unit. Another 15 per cent said it would depend on the price while a full two thirds rejected the idea. Among the lowest-income tenants 83 per cent rejected this option outright and only 13 per cent said they would definitely consider it.

The fact is, as a policy option to deal with the need to protect our affordable rental housing, the decision to reject an option allowing tenants to buy makes good common sense. The amount of affordable housing in our metropolitan areas right now is limited. It is fragile and we have made the decision as a government to protect it, to ensure that it continues to exist and that the tenants who occupy that rental housing indeed have the security of tenure to which they are entitled.

There is much more that could be said about this piece of legislation. It is going to committee, which I think is a good thing. None the less, I understand the member for Riverdale (Mr

Reville) would like to speak on this issue, and so I give over to him the floor.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Any questions and comments on the member's statement? If not, do other members wish to participate?

**Mr Reville:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I know you were a member of this House the last time we discussed the Rental Housing Protection Act, but I do not know whether you were actually present in the House on that day. You should have seen it, Mr Speaker. It was an amazing experience.

The Tory Housing critic was away off on some business and the bill was handed to the then member for St George. Both the member and the riding have since disappeared. Perhaps the Legislature has suffered a great loss thereby because we are no longer dazzled by those flashing teeth.

The Minister of Housing of that day was the member for Scarborough North and the debate took place on the very last day of the spring session in July 1986. Those of us who were interested in the Rental Housing Protection Act were under the gimlet eye of our respected House leaders who were saying, "Hurry up, hurry up, we've got to adjourn this place."

I mention this because the government and the member for York Mills (Mr J. B. Nixon), whose remarks I have had the pleasure of listening to, have indicated that one of the wonderful features of this bill is that it will cover vacant units. Well, that is a good thing and that was precisely the thing I was urging on the previous Minister of Housing almost three years ago.

In fact, I moved an amendment, which carried with the support of the Progressive Conservatives, which I believed had accomplished just that and which the solicitors of the city of Toronto believed had accomplished just that. It was this minister's officials in the Ministry of Housing who said it did not cover vacant buildings.

Everyone knows that landlords have developed various techniques for ridding their units of tenants. Sometimes they pay them to write an essay on the housing shortage. The best fee I ever heard for writing an essay on the housing shortage was \$21,000, which was paid to a tenant to write an essay on the housing shortage on condition that the tenant vacate a unit. Of course, that tenant made a contract and a bargain, and the tenant thought that was a good bargain until he got out in the market and tried to make out in a housing market that is increasingly hostile to people who do not have pots of money.

1730

There were other techniques, of course, that landlords have traditionally used to get tenants out of buildings. There is the old turn-off-the-hydro trick and the turn-off-the-heat trick. There is the old brother-in-law trick for those of us who are fortunate enough to have a brother-in-law who looks like a refrigerator. When such a brother-in-law arrives at your door, you certainly do call him "Sir."

I do not give the government a whole lot of credit for, three years later, coming to the conclusion that the Rental Housing Protection Act should apply to vacant buildings as well as to buildings that are occupied by people, because it is not that hard, given the power structure between a landlord and a tenant, to achieve a vacant building.

I have some passion for this matter, because in the riding of Riverdale over the last decade more than 1,000 rental units have disappeared. The way in which some of them disappeared makes me want to vomit. Daily, I drive past an automobile dealership that demolished six affordable housing units. These units were renting for around \$350 a month. Do members know what they do with the space on which those people's homes used to exist? They park cars waiting for servicing.

This government was too late to save those units, because this government is not known for its competence. Those units came down after this government was in power. Then you go across the street to Gerrard Square at Pape and Gerrard. There is a wonderful parking lot there. Guess what was on top of that parking lot? There were 30 affordable apartments, knocked down because this government could not get its act together fast enough to deliver on an item it promised in the accord, when it signed the accord with the New Democratic Party. One of the first, very specific items on the accord was condominium conversion and demolition control legislation. I do not give the government a whole lot of credit for that, either.

I am pleased that there is no sunset clause in this legislation. In July 1986 I said, "You will rue the day you didn't put a sunset clause in the legislation because you will be back here begging us"—

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** We are not begging, we are asking.

**Mr Reville:** The member for York Mills says he is not begging. Of course, he is such a tall and attractive young man that begging would probably look pretty good on him.

In fact, what happened was that the original bill, Bill 11, had a sunset clause and we did have to extend it. It may be that we will have to extend it again, because here it is 12 June and we are having the second-reading debate of a piece of legislation which, even though it was extended, may have to be extended again because it is going out for the public to have some opportunity to make the odd remark. I do not know whether it is a refusal to understand how the process works around here or whether it is just simple incompetence that makes a government bring forward the second reading of a bill that is supposed to have royal assent by the end of the month.

**Mr Fleet:** Given the delays of the ringing of bells, you shouldn't be surprised at the holdups in the process.

**Mr Reville:** Well now, the member for High Park-Swansea, the member who would like tenants to buy their units and who said as much to thousands of the voters in his riding, says that the opposition has somehow delayed that. He is wrong, because the member for Renfrew North, Little Lord Conway, as the government House leader, knows how to negotiate to "No." I would be happy to lend him this book, *Getting to Yes*. I have never met a government House leader who has no solutions.

**Mr Reycraft:** I have that book on tape.

**Mr Reville:** The member has this book on tape? He should lend it to the Minister of Mines and government House leader, because he is a wonderful reader. He is an avid reader. I have been to so many House leaders' meetings where I have heard about a book he is reading that I am a far more literate man today than I should be, given the number of books I get a chance to read. But I do get a chance to hear detailed synopses of books that the government House leader is reading, and they are a broad and amazing range of books, mostly written in the 19th century.

This bill continues to be flawed. I pointed out that it is good that it applies belatedly to vacant buildings. I have pointed out that it is good that it now has no sunset clause. If there is one thing that this government cannot afford to do, it is to have sunset clauses in any legislation it brings forward because, sure enough, as day turns into night, this government will miss the boat, the sunset will have passed and the moon will be up before it gets around to doing what it says it will do.

This bill continues to have serious flaws in it. It continues to leave out thousands, literally thousands, of units.

**Hon Mr Elston:** They're all the same price.

**Mr Reville:** To the member for Bruce (Mr Elston), who is commenting from the cheap seats, I say that leaving thousands of units unprotected is a typical Liberal approach. It means they can somehow try to be on both sides at once. They can be on the side of the tenants as long as they do not live in a fourplex; if they do live in a fourplex, they are on the side of the landlord. Do members know how many fourplexes there are in the province? I do not either, but there are thousands of them. I know the minister knows precisely how many there are because she has within her employ many dozens of bean counters who count that sort of bean, and there are literally thousands of tenants who are unprotected.

The bill continues to have the most wimpy criteria you can imagine. It says, "Thou shalt not demolish, convert or renovate if somehow, thereby, the affordable housing stock will be damaged." Would anyone trust this government with that kind of subjective decision-making, this government that has no policy direction and no moral fibre? Would anyone trust them? I certainly would not.

That is why in 1986, on a hot July day, I suggested that the criterion should be made specific and it should be tied to a vacancy rate; that one of the ways to tell whether your rental stock was in jeopardy was to find out how many units were empty. The only place in this province where there is an adequate vacancy rate is the city of London, where it is 3.1 per cent, and that is at the low end. An adequate vacancy rate should be three to five per cent, our housing policy people tell us, and the minister's housing policy people would tell her if she did not have to have such an important conversation with the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan). The vacancy rate in the city of Toronto is 0.2 per cent. I congratulate the Liberal government; it has managed to make available two out of every 1,000 apartments for people to rent.

I recommended in 1986 that no conversions, demolitions or renovations to take units out of the stock should be allowed unless the vacancy rate were above four per cent. I would have been interested to hear what the government's reaction was to that proposal, but all I got was a lot of mumbo-jumbo about their intention to protect the housing stock as long as it did not offend any landlords.

I think, in the end, we have the kind of legislation we should expect from this government: legislation that walks carefully down a

fence, neither offending landlords too much nor protecting tenants too much. Unless one has within the quiver that carries the arsenal of the Housing minister a serious housing stock protection policy, then all the rest of the efforts the government undertakes are almost worthless, and we will continue to see housing disappear and be used for luxury condominiums, luxury private ownership, parking lots—

1740

**Miss Martel:** For Jaguars.

**Mr Pouliot:** For Jaguars, BMWs.

**Mr Reville:** —BMWs, Jaguars, Ferraris. I understand that—never mind. I think it would be appropriate, given the time of 20 minutes to six o'clock, to conclude my remarks by saying that the Rental Housing Protection Act needs to be discussed by various interest groups and members of the public.

I extend my sympathy to the Minister of Housing that she was again unable to meet the deadline, but I can tell the members that the members of this party do not think the Minister of Housing is serious enough about protecting our stock, and we look forward to seeing whether she has anything to say for herself in the wrapup that I understand has been promised for about this time.

**The Acting Speaker:** Are there any comments or questions?

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** Just let me say that I admire the member for Riverdale for his eloquence and for, might I say, a bit of hyperbole, but I understand that is in his nature.

Let me make the point that the situation in the city of Toronto, when the member for Riverdale was a city councillor in Toronto, was very bad indeed, when we talk about the disappearance of affordable rental stock.

From 1978 to 1986, over 8,700 units were lost. That is over 1,000 units a year. Then the member for Riverdale came to Queen's Park. He wanted to do something about it, but so did the Liberal government. Indeed, in 1986 we introduced Bill 11 which virtually put an end to conversions and demolitions in the city of Toronto, because the number went from over 1,000 a year to 76. Those are dramatic results. Something was done and I leave that for the member for Riverdale to think about.

**Mr Reville:** The member for York Mills is quite right: The city of Toronto did experience an enormous loss of rental units in that period. That was because the previous government was absolutely refusing to entertain any demolition

control legislation, and in fact the member may know that I was one of the infamous Toronto 11 who just about did time over trying to stop the demolition of the buildings on Eglinton Avenue. I had to cough up a lot of personal money when I was sued because I would not vote for a demolition permit in that connection.

That is why in 1985, when we were confronted with the fall of the Progressive Conservatives, we insisted that demolition control and condominium conversion legislation be upfront in the accord. We feel seriously betrayed by this government because it did not keep its bargain. It did not bring in serious demolition control, and if anybody doubts that, how come it is back here today with this little number, trying to fix the mistakes it made in 1986?

It was not for want of effort on my part that these mistakes were made. I offered those amendments and the Minister of Housing of the day did not accept them. Not only that, he gave the Legislature to feel that fourplexes would be covered when in fact they were not. I will never forget that as long as I live and I hold this government accountable for that as well.

**The Acting Speaker:** We have time remaining only for a short reply by the Minister of Housing.

**Hon Ms Hošek:** Let me just reiterate the main features of this legislation. It is permanent legislation to protect rental housing in this province. It extends protection to vacant buildings. The same protection that is provided to vacant rental buildings is provided to buildings with tenants. It ensures that vacant buildings are not lost from the housing stock during debates on the act. It restricts the practice of evicting tenants to obtain vacancy. It extends the time period of laying charges from six months to two years, with stronger fines and more protection against harassment.

I am interested in further debate in committee. I think it is a good act and a good bill. I have listened with interest to my colleagues and I will be glad to hear what they have to say in committee.

**The Acting Speaker:** The Minister of Housing has moved second reading of Bill 211. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for standing committee on social development.

The Acting Speaker I would draw to the attention of members now that on Thursday, 8 June, the division with respect to the motion for second reading of Bill 10, An Act to control Automobile Insurance Rates, was deferred until now, 5:45 today. Pursuant to the agreement of the House, I now call in the members for the vote and I remind members that the division bell is for a maximum of 30 minutes.

1757

#### AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE RATES CONTROL ACT, 1989

The House divided on Hon. Mr Elston's motion for second reading of Bill 10, An Act to Control Automobile Insurance Rates, which was agreed to on the following vote:

##### Ayes

Adams, Beer, Bossy, Brown, Callahan, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Cleary, Collins, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cordiano, Curling, Daigeler, Elliot, Elston, Faubert, Fawcett, Fleet, Fontaine, Furlong, Grandmaître, Hag-

gerty, Hošek, Kanter, Kerrio, Keyes, Kozyra, LeBourdais, Leone, Lipsett, Matrundola, McClelland, McGuigan, McLeod, Miller;

Neumann, Nixon, J. B., Nixon, R. F., Offer, O'Neill, Y., Owen, Patten, Pelissero, Phillips, G., Poole, Ramsay, Reycraft, Riddell, Roberts, Scott, Smith, D. W., Sola, Sorbara, South, Sullivan, Sweeney, Tatham, Velshi, Wilson, Wong, Wrye.

##### Nays

Allen, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cunningham, Cureatz, Eves, Farnan, Grier, Harris, Johnson, J. M., Kormos, Laughren, Mackenzie, Marland, Martel, McLean, Morin-Strom, Philip, E., Pouliot, Rae, B., Reville, Runciman, Sterling, Villeneuve, Wildman.

Ayes 63; nays 27.

Bill ordered for standing committee on administration of justice.

The House adjourned at 1800.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS\*  
(130 seats)

Second Session, 34th Parliament

**Lieutenant Governor: Hon Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC**

- 
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)<br/>           Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)<br/>           Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)<br/>           Beer, Charles (York North L)<br/>           Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)<br/>           Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)<br/> <b>Bradley, Hon James J.</b>, Minister of the Environment (St Catharines L)<br/>           Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)<br/>           Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)<br/>           Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)<br/>           Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)<br/>           Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)<br/>           Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)<br/> <b>Caplan, Hon Elinor</b>, Minister of Health (Oriole L)<br/>           Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)<br/>           Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)<br/>           Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)<br/>           Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)<br/>           Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)<br/> <b>Conway, Hon Sean G.</b>, Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)<br/>           Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)<br/>           Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)<br/>           Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)<br/>           Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)<br/>           Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)<br/>           Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)<br/> <b>Curling, Hon Alvin</b>, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)<br/>           Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)<br/>           Dietsch, Michael M. (St Catharines-Brock L)<br/> <b>Eakins, Hon John F.</b>, Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)<br/> <b>Edighoffer, Hon Hugh A.</b>, Speaker (Perth L)<br/>           Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)<br/> <b>Elston, Hon Murray J.</b>, Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Financial Institutions (Bruce L)<br/>           Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)<br/>           Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)<br/>           Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)<br/>           Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)<br/>           Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)<br/>           Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)<br/>           Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)</p> | <p><b>Fontaine, Hon René</b>, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)<br/> <b>Fulton, Hon Ed</b>, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)<br/>           Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)<br/> <b>Grandmaitre, Hon Bernard C.</b>, Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)<br/>           Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)<br/>           Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)<br/>           Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)<br/>           Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)<br/>           Hart, Christine E. (York East L)<br/>           Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)<br/> <b>Hošek, Hon Chaviva</b>, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)<br/>           Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)<br/>           Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)<br/>           Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)<br/>           Kanter, Ron (St Andrew-St Patrick L)<br/> <b>Kerrio, Hon Vincent G.</b>, Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)<br/>           Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)<br/>           Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)<br/>           Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)<br/> <b>Kwinter, Hon Monte</b>, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)<br/>           Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)<br/>           LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)<br/>           Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)<br/>           Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)<br/>           Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)<br/>           MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)<br/>           Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)<br/>           Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)<br/> <b>Mancini, Hon Remo</b>, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)<br/>           Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)<br/>           Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)<br/>           Matrondola, Gino (Willowdale L)<br/>           McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)<br/>           McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)<br/>           McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)<br/>           McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)<br/>           McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)<br/> <b>McLeod, Hon Lyn</b>, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)<br/>           Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)</p> |
|---|--|

- Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)  
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)  
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste Marie NDP)  
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)  
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)  
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)  
**Nixon, Hon Robert F.**, Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Brant-Haldimand L)  
**Oddie Munro, Hon Lily**, Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)  
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)  
**O'Neil, Hon Hugh P.**, Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)  
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)  
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)  
**Patten, Hon Richard**, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)  
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)  
**Peterson, Hon David R.**, Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)  
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)  
**Phillips, Hon Gerry**, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)  
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)  
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)  
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)  
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)  
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)  
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)  
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)  
**Ramsay, Hon David**, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)  
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-Walkerville L)  
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)  
 Reyecraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)  
**Riddell, Hon Jack**, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)  
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)  
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)  
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)  
**Scott, Hon Ian G.**, Attorney General and acting Solicitor General and minister responsible for native affairs (St George-St David L)  
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)  
 Smith, E. Joan, (London South L)  
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)  
**Sorbara, Hon Gregory S.**, Minister of Labour (York Centre L)  
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)  
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)  
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)  
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)  
**Sweeney, Hon John**, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)  
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)  
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)  
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)  
**Ward, Hon Christopher C.**, Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)  
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)  
**Wilson, Hon Mavis**, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)  
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)  
**Wong, Hon Robert C.**, Minister of Energy (Fort York L)  
**Wrye, Hon William**, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

\*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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No. 24

# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario

**Second Session, 34th Parliament**  
Tuesday, 13 June 1989



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario  
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, 13 June 1989

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

**Ms Bryden:** Numerous forums have been held recently on Metro Toronto's horrendous transportation problems. All agree that we are in a state of gridlock. The situation will be getting worse as thousands of new downtown office spaces under construction are completed, bringing an estimated 60,000 more workers into the centre core.

The Minister of Transportation (Mr Fulton) has recently spent \$800,000 of our money to conduct interviews with residents of 65,000 Metro households, according to a story in the Toronto Star of 16 May 1989. While the minister has not yet released the report, he is quoted in the Star story as saying, this "massive study of Metro transportation problems has proven that immediate steps are needed to take pressure off the overloaded system." But what has he done? Fiddled while Rome burned.

Essential public transit improvements like the Sheppard subway are still on hold. The one-stop extension of the underused Spadina subway will do little to help riders but may enhance the land values of developers who are planning luxury housing on land becoming available at York University and the Downsview airport.

The minister continues to support new arterial roads which bring more people into the centre core instead of into the regional subcentres. I nominate the Minister of Transportation for the title of least-effective transportation man of the year.

### LONG-TERM CARE

**Mr McLean:** My statement is directed to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney). He recently announced his intention to work with the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan) and to ensure that there are more chronic care beds created in Ontario. He is no doubt aware that the Ministry of Health currently provides funds for approximately 29,000 nursing home beds and more than 14,000 chronic care and

rehabilitative beds in Ontario. More of these beds will be urgently required as the population of this province continues to age in the coming years.

I realize that the funding necessary to increase the number of these beds is limited. The Ministry of Community and Social Services is currently moving residents out of facilities like the Huronia Regional Centre in Orillia and into communities when it is determined that they are capable of living on their own. Therefore, I urge the minister to meet with the Minister of Health to develop a program whereby available space at institutions such as the Huronia Regional Centre could be used for chronic care beds. This could free beds in hospitals that require them for acute care patients.

I believe this type of program would relieve the strain on our hospitals and make use of facilities such as the Huronia Regional Centre which are gradually releasing their residents into the general population. I think this is an area that the minister and the Minister of Health should give serious consideration to.

I have had the opportunity to tour the hospitals in the area, and up to 40 per cent of the patients in those hospitals are in chronic care. I urge the minister to get them out of the hospitals and into other facilities.

### HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

**Mrs O'Neill:** Yesterday, 12 June, the Minister of Transportation (Mr Fulton) was in Kemptville, Ontario, to make a transportation announcement of historic importance to all citizens of eastern Ontario. The government of Ontario has made a firm commitment to complete Highway 416, the long-awaited four-lane highway between Highway 401 and the nation's capital, by the year 1999.

As many members are aware, for over 35 years various provincial governments have recognized the need for this important highway yet have failed to take action. It was not until the present government took concrete steps in 1987 to begin the construction of the first phase of this project in 1991, from the Queensway to Century Road, that a firm commitment was ever made to this project.

The Minister of Transportation announced yesterday, two new major developments in regard to this matter, further expanding our government's commitment. First, phase 1 of the project will be completed by 1995, a year ahead of schedule. Second, construction of the final 60-kilometre portion will begin in 1992, the earliest possible date, six years ahead of the most optimistic schedule that had been predicted, and it will be completed in 1999.

Highway 416 will be a tremendous benefit to all citizens of Ottawa-Carleton and indeed to citizens of eastern Ontario, providing a safer, more rapid link to Highway 401. The economy of Ontario will be greatly enhanced.

#### NATUROPATHY

**Mr Farnan:** The profession of naturopathic medicine is under attack and both practitioners and patients must be extremely perturbed by the reaction of the Liberal government to the report *Striking A New Balance*. This report, presented in the form of draft legislation, would have acted to deregulate naturopaths in Ontario.

Naturopathy has been regulated and licensed in Ontario since 1925. Practitioners must graduate from a four-year course at a naturopathic college after first completing three years of university training in chemistry, organic chemistry, biology and related sciences. Graduates of naturopathy must write examinations set by the provincial government. Practitioners are then registered and regulated by a five-person board, the board of drugless therapy, and all members of this board are appointed by provincial orders in council on recommendations from the Ministry of Health.

With this long record of service and these rigorous standards, training and professional regulation of naturopaths, tens of thousands of Ontarians have chosen to seek their health care from naturopaths at no cost to the Ontario health insurance plan. However, with the enactment of the proposed recommendations, these same patients will lose their freedom to choose the health care most appropriate to their needs. The Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan) must break her silence on this issue. I urge the minister to reject the proposal that would deregulate the profession of naturopathic medicine.

#### REACH FOR THE TOP/ SCHOOL REACH CHAMPIONSHIP

**Mr Villeneuve:** I rise with great pride to report that the Ontario team from Tagwi Secondary School this last weekend in Winnipeg won the

national Reach for the Top/School Reach championship. The Tagwi team, consisting of Allan Coleman, Stuart Pollock, Peter Simard, Claude Theoret and Neil Wheeler, defeated British Columbia in the final round by over 100 points. The Tagwi team, coached by Dan Maloney, won the Ontario championships in London last month and proceeded to the national competition in Winnipeg last weekend.

#### 1340

Tagwi is a small, rural secondary school with a student enrolment of fewer than 500. It is situated in Roxborough township, Stormont county, my home municipality, and is living proof that the larger the better, when speaking of schooling, is not true. Not only did the team work hard to earn its win; it was able to raise most of the funds it needed for travel costs locally and on its own.

I am sure all members of this House would like to congratulate the members of Ontario's winning team, the national School Reach champions. Once again, congratulations to our own Tagwi Secondary School team. It is truly number one.

#### DISABLED PERSONS

**Mr Campbell:** Recently I had the pleasure of representing the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr Mancini) in Sudbury at the first public screening of *Talking It Out in the Family: Parents with Disabilities Discuss Communications in the Family*.

I was very moved by this video. Through interviews, parents with disabilities and their children demonstrated family strengths and their problem-solving abilities as they cope with the impact of disability in their lives.

I must commend Laurie McGauley for her sensitive direction of this project, and the Joly, Hall, Carr and Davidson families of Sudbury. Their message of love and understanding was given from the heart. I taught with Don Davidson at Sudbury Secondary School. Recently, the progression of his multiple sclerosis forced him to take long-term disability leave. I must also commend Randy and Yvette Beland, who worked from proposal to overseeing the administration of the video.

The video was produced by PUSH Northeastern, People United for Self-Help in Ontario. It is designed to raise the awareness of the problems faced by disabled persons in the region and to encourage discussion among families and self-help groups.

I would urge all members and residents of Ontario to see and learn from *Talking It Out in the Family*.

## NURSING SERVICES

**Mr Farnan:** The crisis in nursing continues to impact on Ontario's health care system. Beds continue to be closed and surgery continues to be delayed.

One of the recommendations of the Meltz report of greatest concern to nurses deals with self-scheduling and flexible scheduling. In most Ontario hospitals, the head nurse is responsible for scheduling. While an enlightened and more flexible schedule would go a long way in the retention of staff, head nurses are restricted from improving schedules by global budget restraints imposed by the Ministry of Health. There is no room in the present budget structure to allow nurses the time and resources to explore and develop creative scheduling for nurses.

Once again, a concept that could dramatically improve working conditions for nurses is off limits to nursing, because funds are not targeted through the Ministry of Health to enhance the present status of nursing. The crisis in nursing will continue as long as the specific concerns of nurses remain unaddressed and unsupported financially by this government. The time is long overdue for action.

**Hon Mr Conway:** I would like to seek unanimous consent for two observances today: consent for remarks on the passing of the late Captain Rutherford, who served in this chamber as Sergeant at Arms, and a second consent for comments on the anniversary of TVOntario.

Agreed to.

## CHARLES SMITH RUTHERFORD

**Mrs Fawcett:** It is with a deep feeling of sadness that I rise today to inform the House of the death, on Sunday 11 June, of one of Canada's great heroes, 97-year-old Captain Charles Smith Rutherford, recipient of the Victoria Cross, Military Cross and Military Medal.

Captain Rutherford, a farmer's son, born and raised in the Northumberland hills north of Colborne, won a place in world history and brought honour to himself, his family, his country and his home town.

The story of Charles Rutherford is one of thrilling bravery, inspiring courage and amazing nerve. On 26 August 1918, the then Lieutenant Rutherford came upon a group of men, only to realize the startling, horrifying revelation that they were the enemy. He brazenly said: "You are my prisoners. My men have you surrounded." To punctuate this statement, he waved his revolver in a circle to indicate the surrounding terrain.

To his relief, the entire party of 45 men, which included two officers and three machine-gun crews, threw down their weapons and surrendered. Later that day, Rutherford and his men captured another 35 men. By means of this masterly bluff, no less than 80 enemy were captured without the loss of a single Canadian soldier's life, and several enemy machine-guns were silenced singlehandedly. He was awarded the Victoria Cross by King George V in late November 1918 for these heroic deeds.

When he returned home after the First World War, he served as clerk-treasurer of Haldimand township. It is also worthy of note that Captain Rutherford was appointed Sergeant at Arms for the spring session of the provincial Legislature when Mitchell Hepburn was Premier. He served this House diligently for six years from 1934 to 1940. He then took the position of postmaster in Colborne before again donning his army uniform for duty in the Second World War.

I first heard of Charlie Rutherford's heroic deeds while teaching his great-nephew, David Rutherford, who brought in his uncle's medals to class to show. It was a wonderful thrill for us all, but I was somewhat relieved when the medals were back safely in their owner's hands. That was Captain Rutherford, though, unassuming and unpretentious, helping a class of young people have a better appreciation and understanding of the history of war.

Charlie was 94 when I personally met him while I was on the campaign trail. He always referred to me as "that girl." "How's that girl doing?" he would ask his daughter, Dora Grant. Charlie, that girl appreciates and remembers gratefully what you did for your country.

I know my colleagues join me today in extending sincere sympathy to the family of one of Canada's true heroes, Captain Charles Smith Rutherford, Victoria Cross, Military Cross, Military Medal and former Sergeant at Arms of this Legislature.

**Mr Breagh:** It is a great honour to offer the tributes of members of this caucus to Captain Charles Rutherford. He was a great hero in a nation that frankly does not pay much attention to its heroes very often. This is a man who served his country with great honour and great distinction. That honour and that distinction were noted by the awards that were given to him by various governments and by the fact that he was made the Sergeant at Arms of this chamber itself.

When one has an opportunity to read some of the exploits, it is absolutely amazing how he best represents people of this country and how, in a

quiet and unassuming way, people whom perhaps we think would not be capable of such remarkable deeds in fact can do them and have done them.

It is a great honour to have had him as a servant of this chamber. I think we should pause today and reflect, as Canadians should do more often, on the great things that have been done by this simple man from a rural part of eastern Ontario who achieved great prominence in his own time and who achieved great stature within this country.

We offer to his family our condolences and we want to pay tribute to a great Canadian.

**Mr Runciman:** We in the Progressive Conservative Party would like to pay tribute to the late Charles Smith Rutherford, a former Sergeant at Arms in this Legislature.

Mr Rutherford lived a full and active life and made an outstanding contribution to this country, both as a Sergeant at Arms in the Ontario Legislature and as a hero in both the First World War and the Second World War.

Charles Rutherford was born in Haldimand township in January 1882. He first saw active service with the Queen's Own Rifles and later with the 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles. Mr Rutherford soon gained the rank of lieutenant and received more than a dozen medals, including the Victoria Cross, for his service in both world wars.

In December 1935, Mr Rutherford was named Sergeant at Arms. That particular session of the Ontario Legislature under the Hepburn government was a stormy one and Mr Rutherford was the first sergeant to have the pleasure, I guess, of ejecting a member of the Legislature.

In 1941, after serving the citizens of Ontario as Sergeant at Arms for six years, Mr Rutherford made the decision to enlist in the Veteran Guard of Canada as a lieutenant. He resigned his position in the Ontario Legislature and again served his country admirably during the Second World War.

Following the war, Mr Rutherford was a postmaster for the village of Colborne and later moved to Keswick, where he ran a general drygoods store. He moved to Cobourg in 1973, but returned to his home in Colborne to enjoy his retirement.

Captain Rutherford exhibited incredible bravery during the First World War. As mentioned earlier, on one memorable day he captured 80 German prisoners without the loss of a single Canadian soldier's life. He was also involved in some of the most brutal battles in the war,

including Passchendaele and the battle of Vimy Ridge. For his efforts, he was awarded the Victoria Cross and eventually was promoted to the rank of captain.

Charles Smith Rutherford was the last surviving Victoria Cross holder from the First World War. He was a man who made the highest of sacrifices for his country, not once but twice, and he was a man who served the people of Ontario proudly as Sergeant at Arms for six years.

On behalf of the Progressive Conservative Party and all members of the Legislature, I would like to express my condolences to the family of Captain Rutherford, a man who gave his all to the people of his country and his home province.

**The Speaker:** On behalf of all members, when Hansard is officially printed, I will of course send a copy to the Rutherford family so that your words of sympathy are received.

1350

#### FRIENDS OF TVONTARIO

#### LES AMIS DE TVONTARIO

**Ms Poole:** As the member for Eglinton, I am particularly proud to count TVOntario as one of my constituents. TVOntario is at the forefront of educational television in Ontario. It plays an invaluable role in creating educational opportunities in our communities.

Today, in conjunction with my colleagues the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel) of the New Democratic Party and the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr Villeneuve) of the Conservative Party, it is my pleasure to announce the creation of the Friends of TVOntario.

The group will be composed exclusively of members of this Legislature who support educational broadcasting in both English and French to address Ontario's educational needs and priorities. I just announced the creation of Friends of TVO in our caucus today and I already have many, many gestures of support.

As Friends of TVO, we will be afforded regular opportunities to see TVO meeting the educational needs of our community. TVOntario leads the way in dealing with such topics as literacy, substance abuse, skills training, the environment, multiculturalism and the need for commercial-free children's programming that reflects our standards and values. At the same time, as Friends of TVOntario, we will help keep TVO informed about the educational needs of our communities.

TVOntario has also come to occupy a very important position in the cultural life of French-

speaking Ontarians by virtue of the extensive French-language programming provided by la Chaîne française. In fact, in recognition of the vital role TVOntario is playing in our province, TVO has been chosen to host the 51st biannual meeting of the Communauté des télévisions francophones here in Toronto from 11 June to 17 June.

On the evening of 15 June, there will be a reception in honour of the visiting CTF delegates. Co-hosting the reception will be the Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms Oddie Munro) and Bernard Ostry, chairman and chief executive officer of TVOntario. I invite all my fellow colleagues to join us at the reception so they may be recognized and honoured as Friends of TVOntario.

**Miss Martel:** Following the comments of the member for Eglinton, I too would urge all members of this assembly to become involved as Friends of TVOntario, especially in recognition and support of the outstanding role of the network in educational broadcasting in both English and French.

Members may know that la Chaîne française became affiliated with the Communauté des télévisions francophones, CTF, in 1987. The CTF is an organization of 14 francophone television networks in Europe and Canada. The aim of the CTF is to enrich and promote the exchange and co-production of programs and series of francophone origin. The CTF broadcasting group reaches a viewership population of over 91.5 million people.

This week, over 100 delegates of the CTF are here in Toronto for the biannual plenary conference hosted by TVOntario. For the first time, at this conference there is a special committee on education, which is also a TVOntario initiative.

TVOntario's outstanding commitment to educational programming was again demonstrated on Friday, 2 June. I had the pleasure of participating with the member for Etobicoke West (Mrs LeBourdais) in the official launch of the province's second French-language transmitter, located near Silver Lake in the riding of Sudbury East. Educators, parents and children to be served by la Chaîne française welcome the availability of high-quality educational programming, the trademark of TVOntario.

I too urge all members of this assembly to attend the reception on 15 June in honour of TVOntario's role as a proud and dynamic member of la Communauté des télévisions francophones.

**Mr Villeneuve:** I am very proud this afternoon and pleased to join my colleagues the member for Sudbury East and the member for Eglinton in inviting all members to become friends of TVO. Since 1970, TVOntario has provided informative and educational programming to the people of Ontario in both French and English.

As someone who represents a large, rural constituency in eastern Ontario, I know that TVO programming is appreciated by those constituents who receive it and is demanded by those who cannot at present. While TVO is of particular interest to many members here, we recognize that this interest should remain nonpartisan. By becoming friends of TVOntario, it is my hope and that of my two colleagues that we will be able to open a new avenue of communications with TVO to further benefit our constituents across Ontario.

Avec l'arrivée de la Chaîne française, TVOntario diffuse présentement une programmation quotidienne complète en anglais ainsi qu'en français. La Chaîne française a permis à TVOntario d'entretenir des liens avec les organismes de télévisions francophones internationales tels que la Communauté des télévisions francophones.

Cette semaine marque une première, puisque TVOntario accueille la Communauté des télévisions francophones lors de leur 51<sup>e</sup> session ici à Toronto. Afin de célébrer cette occasion, j'invite tous les députés à assister à un cocktail, jeudi prochain, pour venir rencontrer les délégués de la Communauté des télévisions francophones afin de reconnaître la progressivité de TVOntario dans le domaine de la diffusion française.

## STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

### APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

**Hon Mr Curling:** I would like to inform the House of an increase in the Ontario government's financial commitment to training in general and the apprenticeship system in particular.

I am announcing today that the Ministry of Skills Development will once again make up the federal shortfall in funding for apprenticeship. Last year, it was \$5 million. This year, we have doubled the commitment: to \$10 million.

We in Ontario know the value of apprenticeship training, and so do employers. For every dollar government puts in to apprenticeship, employers put in nine. What better measure of a private sector commitment than a system that is 90 per cent funded by the private sector?

For that reason, apprenticeship is sensitive to the demands of the marketplace and it is obviously an effective use of taxpayers' dollars.

Because it is such a responsive, effective way to train, we are working with our training partners to streamline and build on the apprenticeship system.

This government has made it clear that it values this system by more than doubling the total commitment to the apprenticeship system in the province. Three years ago, funding levels were at \$11 million. This year, with the funding I am announcing today, that has increased to \$30 million.

We have introduced the tool fund to help first-year apprentices recover some of the costs of expensive equipment. We have established projects across the province to encourage more women to enter the system. We have increased the number of trades updating courses available for skilled workers so that they can keep up with the demands of new technologies.

We are seeing results. We have increased the number of apprentices to more than 46,500 from 40,000 over the last two years. That is an all-time high, and it puts us right on target to reach our goal of 60,000 by 1992.

We have introduced new, flexible models of apprenticeship, including a new approach which will see apprentices take their in-class training for shorter periods several times a year.

This differs from past methods, which saw apprentices taking off two months once a year to pursue classroom training.

We in Ontario are using the apprenticeship system to meet the training needs of today and tomorrow.

But despite the announcement earlier this year of a national training strategy, the federal government has given us no firm sign of its plans for apprenticeship funding. The only indication from Ottawa is that it plans to further study apprenticeship. That simply is not good enough.

**1400**

The government of Ontario is more than willing to work with Ottawa to ensure its labour force development strategy is as successful as it can possibly be. We have already put forward a positive agenda for new training partnership arrangements across Canada.

We welcome the opportunity to sit down with the federal government and the private sector to work out our respective roles in the implementation of the new strategy. But again this year the federal government has placed a strict limit on its traditional funding for apprenticeship. This limit falls far short of the market demand.

I sincerely hope that as Ottawa works towards implementing its new strategy, it will see that

expanding apprenticeship must be a part of any comprehensive approach to training workers in Ontario for the economic realities of the 1990s and the 21st century.

## RESPONSES

### APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** I guess it is good to see that the province is again going to pick up part of the shortfall that will be coming because of the cap on funding.

**Mr Ballinger:** Don't be so generous.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** I will not be so generous in a second, if the member for Durham-York will just wait.

The cap that the federal government has put on is indeed regrettable, but it is important to look at apprenticeship in a larger view than is being provided with us here today and to understand that the federal government still puts in hundreds of millions of dollars in comparison with the amount of money that is put in by Ontario and that business still is expected to put in the majority of money.

But even with that, I would remind the minister (Mr Curling) and those in the House, Mr de Grandpré himself recently indicated that of all the countries in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Canada was far behind on the whole question of training and apprenticeship; that we have an undertrained workforce—a lack of recognition of the importance of training or training culture that this minister sometimes speaks about—in our society; that whole sections of our economy do not have apprenticeship programs at all—something which is unthinkable in the European common market, as an example; that we have companies which do not have any apprentices whatsoever and a government which has no plan for expanding in a large fashion the kinds of apprenticeships that are available in Ontario, or means of providing a levy system to ensure that all industry participates in producing the kinds of apprenticeships and skilled workers we are going to need moving into the next century.

I think it is important to look at this in the context of what this government has overseen in terms of the drop of technical education at the secondary level. How can we expect a major increase in the apprenticeship programs in Ontario when we are losing tech studies all over the province at the moment? This government has yet to come up with a plan to reassert those programs and to give them increased status in the province.

Surprisingly, the minister has the nerve to talk here today about increasing the number of women in apprenticeships. He knows that in his own estimates we discovered recently that the percentage of women who are receiving apprenticeship training in Ontario has actually dropped this year. The minister will talk about the fact that we now have 46,000 apprentices more than ever before. I would say a few hundred more than ever before. What is represented here, according to the people in the industry, is merely a fluctuation according to age, especially in the construction industry, which is now a much older workforce than it was a few years ago.

I would also like to draw attention to the fact that the minister talks about his \$750 assistance to apprentices again and makes no comment today about his wonderful program for marketing internships, where this government pays \$15,000 a year over two years to companies like Xerox and IBM, to help those poor, impoverished companies to train their people in marketing their products abroad. A great need is being filled here by Ontario. I am surprised he did not take credit for it today.

We continually get attacks on the federal government, justly deserved in terms of its views of apprenticeship, but we have not had a government here which fills the gap with ideas about where we should be going with apprenticeship and how vital it is to our economy as we move into the 21st century. I would say that perhaps in the next statement the minister makes he will give us a fuller idea of this government's role in promoting apprenticeship more broadly in our industries than he has done in the past.

**Mr Farnan:** Perhaps I might more specifically address an issue that has already been referred to by my colleague, and that is schools in the Waterloo region that are presently considering closing workshops in their schools in order to facilitate accommodating children in regular classes. There has been no statement from the Minister of Skills Development that he will not tolerate this kind of cutting off of workshop availability within the school system.

Any minister worth his salt who was responsible for skills development, who heard rumours that a school board was going to cut workshops would be putting out a directive that this was totally unacceptable. The minister is remiss; it is about time he addressed the problems at home. It is one thing because you are in trouble here in Ontario to declare war abroad with the feds; let us address the problems in Ontario and not let these things get out of hand.

**Mrs Cunningham:** In responding to the statement from the Minister of Skills Development I suppose we should really talk now about meeting the training needs in Ontario. It is nice to see that this government takes every opportunity it can to come to this House and blame another level of government. I thought the real desire of this government was to work with training partners—meaning all levels of government and all businesses and communities and schools—to make certain that young people can get the training they want and that older people get retraining.

I would like to speak specifically to the training ratios of journeymen to apprentices. This is something that must take place—a change in the ratios of journeymen to apprentices—in many, many areas of skills development. It just cannot happen. What we should be talking about today is program changes. I would love to have come into this House and heard the minister speak about program changes: changes with the business and industry community. We know that the community out there that is working in training areas tells us there are two reasons why people are not being trained.

First of all, it has to do with the cyclical nature of their work. The building trades right now are in a boom and therefore they are training their own people. They are the ones that are taking the responsibility. We know at the same time that the apprenticeship registrations in motive power trades are on a decline. That has been happening, quite frankly, since 1982-83 because of the cyclical nature of training in the business community.

I would like to talk about women in apprenticeship programs. We found out during the estimates that we have a very poor reputation for attracting women into nontraditional workplaces. We are not doing very much better at it, and we should be looking at the reasons why. A lot of it has to do with attitudes in school systems and attitudes of families and parents. That is what we should be talking about now. How are we making a difference? What are we doing about it?

I have not seen any indication in the year I have been here, in spite of all the questions, that we are trying to really make a difference in getting women into nontraditional trades, except through posters. We have to go out there and talk to families and parents of children in the fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade levels.

Where is the partnership with education in Skills Development? It is nonexistent. We are just beginning to talk with the Minister of

Colleges and Universities (Mrs McLeod) as we chatted with her a few weeks ago. With her reputation as a school board trustee, she is very aware of this problem. We should be working through a formal working relationship with all levels of government.

Quite frankly, I question the fiscal responsibility of this particular ministry in meeting its own goals, of reaching a goal of 60,000 by 1992, given its moaning and groaning and lack of support for the program. We are all supposed to stand up here today and give everybody the gold star because they are supporting, to the tune of some \$10 million, a program that the whole public is crying for. This should be number one priority, absolutely number one priority.

As for the federal government having given us no firm sign of its plans for apprenticeship funding, stop moaning about it. This government should get in there and work with the federal government and change things. That is what it is supposed to be doing, and that is what the minister said he would be doing and I am waiting to see the results of it. No more moaning.

1410

As far as the real world goes, it all has to do with communication. We are doing absolutely nothing in the community colleges to change the delivery system. The whole world knows about it. Apprenticeship training has virtually died in Ontario, and unless we make every effort to revitalize it, our students will be left behind.

We should be looking at Germany, Switzerland and Austria, which have political structures like our own. It looks as if one of the committees that I sit on is going to have to travel. We will take the Minister of Skills Development (Mr Curling) with us, so he can see what is happening.

The minister keeps showing me these \$10 million. I am waiting to see what he does with them, because he could not even spend the money when it came to retraining older workers. It is not just money that matters in this government; it is training young people to work in the world of work and making Ontario competitive, not only with our own country and North America but the whole world, and that is what we are looking for.

#### VISITOR

**The Speaker:** I know all members would want me to inform them that we have a special visitor in the lower west gallery, a former member, Ross McClellan. Please join me in welcoming him.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### CONDUCT OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Mr B. Rae:** I want to go back to the Premier. There are some questions that I put to him yesterday. In one of the several exchanges that he and I had about the conduct of the Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms Oddie Munro), he gave an account of a conversation he had with her about a week after the information was made public about a contract that her mother did on her recommendation to Patricia Starr.

Quoting from the Instant Hansard at page L-23, the Premier told me, "She"—that is to say, the minister—"said she mentioned to Mrs Starr some names known to her, that some time later her mother did a contract" and so on.

Outside this House, as quoted in today's Globe and Mail and also in today's Toronto Star, it would appear that in fact the Minister of Culture and Communications only gave one name to Mrs Starr, that is to say, her mother's, and also gave her her mother's phone number.

I want to ask the Premier again exactly what the minister said to him in that conversation last Wednesday.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I think when we discussed this yesterday I said to my honourable friend that we will await the investigation on this matter—and that is exactly where the situation sits—when we will have all of the facts. The member can try to interpret it his own way, but that is exactly the way I view the situation.

**Mr B. Rae:** This is now a matter that is before the House. The Premier himself put it on the record. It is a question of information that is provided by the Premier to members of this Legislature, and 24 hours after the fact he cannot try to run away and hide behind somebody else. He made a statement to this House about information that was provided to him by the Minister of Culture and Communications. I am entitled to ask and I think we are all entitled to an answer: Was the information he gave to the House yesterday true or not?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I always give to this House information that is true, to the best of my knowledge.

**Mr B. Rae:** Has the Premier then spoken to the Minister of Culture and Communications about the information that she provided to him last Wednesday and, if he has not, why has he not?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** No, I have not. The honourable member knows what we know in the

circumstances. I say to him again that there is a complete investigation of this matter, and when I have all of the facts, I will deal with them, not with his interpretation of the facts or anyone else's.

**Mr B. Rae:** Mr Speaker, we are not—

**The Speaker:** Order. New question.

**Mr B. Rae:** To the Premier again: We are not dealing here with interpretations of anything; we are dealing with hard information which the Premier of this province put before this House on the basis of a conversation he says he had with the Minister of Culture and Communications.

She told this House yesterday that she responded to Mrs Starr—I am quoting from page L-13 of Hansard, if the Premier wants to have a look at Hansard and get a hold of what is going on in his own government—"I responded that I knew of several people, one of whom was my mother and I simply left it at that."

The question I have for the Premier is this: The Minister of Culture and Communications left me, as a member of this House, and every other member with a distinct impression that there were a number of names, that there was a group of names that she left with Mrs Starr, that her mother's name happened to be among them. Outside this House, she admitted that there were no other names on the list, the only name she gave Mrs Starr was her own mother's and she left her mother's phone number as well.

**The Speaker:** The question?

**Mr B. Rae:** I want to ask the Premier—this is a very important point: Exactly what did the minister tell him in the meeting he had with her last week?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** As I said to my honourable friend yesterday, my impression was that she mentioned a number of people and her mother was mentioned, as my friend is aware.

**Mr B. Rae:** The Premier knows full well the significance of what he is saying. What he is saying is that he was given the impression of certain information and certain facts. I was given the impression, every member of the House was given the impression about certain information, and it would now appear that the minister, who is conveniently not here today on a day when she knew she would be under severe questioning, in fact gave different information to this House than she gave outside the House.

I am not going to put myself in a position where I have to leave, but I do want to ask the Premier: Is he aware that the account he is giving today is a substantially different account than the

one the minister gave when she spoke to reporters outside the House?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Just for the honourable member's information, I understand that the honourable minister is at a federal-provincial conference today relating to her responsibilities.

The answer is that the reason we have an independent investigation is to determine all of the facts, and judgements will be made on the basis thereof. I told the member that yesterday and I repeat that to him again.

**Mr B. Rae:** As members of this House, we make judgements about statements that are made in this House by another member. We do not have to go to Mr Justice Evans or to a police commissioner to find out whether information provided in this House by a member is accurate or not, and neither should the Premier have to go to a policeman to find out whether a minister is telling him the truth or not in a private conversation. If he is not aware of that, then he really does not have a clue about standards of good behaviour which should apply to members and ministers around this place.

**The Speaker:** Question?

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr B. Rae:** I just do not understand how the Premier can say that.

**The Speaker:** Do you have a question?

**Mr B. Rae:** I have a question for the Premier, very specifically, and that question is this: Did the minister tell him, yes or no, that there were a series of names and a group of people she referred to Mrs Starr, or did she admit to him that in fact her mother was the only person she referred to Mrs Starr?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** As I told the member yesterday, she said that she knew a number of people. Whether she referred—

**Mr D. S. Cooke:** Are you going to follow this up?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I have said that to my honourable friend before. Let me say to my honourable friend that he may want to make something of this and he is entitled to that. He is entitled to draw whatever judgements he wants to draw, fair or unfair. With his sense of moral superiority, he is entitled to do that. But let me say to my friend, I will do that on the basis of facts, as determined by an independent look at the whole situation.

**The Speaker:** New question, the member for Sarnia.

**Mr Brandt:** On the same question to the Premier, it appears quite obvious that there was a statement made in the House by both the Premier and the minister with respect to the number of people who were referred to in the conversation that took place between Mrs Starr and the Minister of Culture and Communications.

Upon leaving this House and being scrummed by the media, and my office has checked with respect to the accuracy of the comment that was made, it is our understanding that the minister corrected her statement outside the House and indicated very clearly that there was one name mentioned in that telephone conversation, one phone number given, and that was the mother of the minister.

Is the Premier prepared to stand up in this House and correct the record?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** If that is what she said, I am not in a position to correct another member's record. If she said it, then obviously she did. I was not aware of that, but let me say to my honourable friend that if that is what stands as her corrected record, then it stands on its own. I cannot correct her remarks any more than I correct his.

**Mr Brandt:** If in fact the minister indicated to the Premier that there were several names mentioned in the telephone call—because this is a very key and I think an important point—if it was a catch-all of names and if it included as well the name of the mother, then that is one circumstance. If in fact there was only one recommendation made, that being the mother of the his minister, and if he was advised, contrary to what the minister said outside this House, that in fact there were a number of names mentioned between Mrs Starr and the minister, what is the Premier prepared to do with respect to a minister who has misled him?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I do not think there is any misleading going on around here.

**Mr Brandt:** Well, there is.

1420

**Hon Mr Peterson:** The member may want to cast it that way, but that is not the way I see it. We will determine the facts and then we will make a judgement on the basis of the facts as they come forward. I have said that to the member and I will say it again.

**Mr Brandt:** The fact is that the minister has not denied that there was a \$5,000 contract for certain survey work that took place between the mother of his minister and Ms Starr in the organization that she represents. That we know.

We do not need an Ontario Provincial Police investigation to determine that. That has already been ascertained as a result of responses that we have had in this House.

Does the Premier think, in his judgement—let's set aside whether there were a number of names mentioned or only the one name mentioned—that it is correct and appropriate and aboveboard for his minister to recommend her mother for a \$5,000 contract with an agency that is getting grants from that very same ministry? Is that the Premier's idea of proper conduct by a minister?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I have told my honourable friend that I will make a determination about proper conduct when I am in possession of all the facts. He has his interpretation of it and he says that there was an offer of a \$5,000 contract. I was told that there was a question of who could do an appropriate kind of survey and she responded that there were several people, and her mother was named, obviously. I was not aware of it. I am told that that contract was awarded and heard about it some substantial time later.

But as I said to my honourable friend, he has his interpretation of the facts and he is going to draw his own conclusions, obviously. I am not going to draw conclusions. I am going to look at the facts and then I will deal with them. As I said to the member before, we will deal with it in an upright and forthright way. People who make mistakes in this business obviously pay the price for it.

[Applause]

**Mr Brandt:** When the one member of the Premier's caucus stops applauding, I want to say to him that if the fact about the \$5,000 contract is incorrect, then he should state that. If the fact about a telephone conversation with the recommendation of the mother's name is incorrect, then he should state that.

What we want to know in the House is, if those facts are correct—the Premier can stand up and correct them if they are not—but if those allegations are correct, does the Premier approve of the conduct of his minister giving a \$5,000 contract to her mother through Ms Starr? Does he approve of that?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** The member poses a hypothetical question. Obviously, I do not approve of anything that in any way takes advantage of one's position, but as I said to my friend and I repeat, we will make a determination of the facts and then I will deal with them. The member's interpretation of the facts is different from his and other people's at this point. We will

look at all of that objectively, delivered into our hands.

**Mr Brandt:** I have to say, with due respect to the Premier, that this is not a question of a hypothetical statement; this is an admission of fact on the part of his minister in connection with a phone call that we know took place.

It is an admission that a recommendation was made, now clarified that one name was mentioned as well as one telephone number, that being the mother of his minister, and that a contract did ensue from that telephone conversation, namely, that survey work was carried out for \$5,000, the benefit of which accrued to the mother of a minister that the Premier has sitting in his cabinet.

The simple question I have for the Premier is this: Does he condone that kind of conversation taking place, and are the other ministers of his cabinet now in a position where they can have conversations with groups that they have a relationship with in terms of grants that they might provide from their ministry? Can this kind of benefit flow then to a family member without any judgement being brought down, without any question of the—

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** As I said, the member has mentioned a phone call. I am not aware if it was a phone call or a private conversation. I was told that several people were capable of doing it. There was no question that she mentioned her mother. I am told that she was not aware of a \$5,000 contract or any amount of contract but that it in fact came some time later. That is the information I have at this moment.

But let me say to my honourable friend that he has drawn his conclusions on it. I am going to get the facts and it has been referred to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for an independent judgement on this matter. He will look at all of those facts and will assist us in his judgement. That is why we have the legislation and that is why it was supported in this House, to assist in that.

The member would like to draw a conclusion based on his interpretation of the facts. He has every right to do that, but I am not prepared to do that. I am going to look at it in its entire context.

**The Speaker:** New question, the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr B. Rae:** I cannot believe the answers we are getting from the Premier. The Premier gave certain answers in the House yesterday. He gave a very specific answer which I have quoted to him: "She said she mentioned to Mrs Starr some

names"—names, plural—"known to her, that some time later her mother did a contract, that she did not even know about it until she read about it in the paper," just to give the full quotation.

The point I want to make is that she mentioned to Mrs Starr some names. That is the conversation that the Premier had with his minister. I do not know whether it was a friendly conversation or a serious one or whether there were other people there or not. All I know is that it was between two members of this House, and certain information was given to the Premier and he gave that information to me.

I want to ask the Premier this question: What is he going to do if he discovers that in fact the information he provided to me and to this House yesterday is incorrect in every detail and every aspect?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I have told the member my recollection of that conversation. I was told that she said that there were many people who could do the particular work and her mother's name was mentioned. I am not aware of any other names mentioned in that sense. If I misspoke myself, then I apologize for that. I am not aware of a long list of names given in the circumstances.

That being said, I will deal with it on the basis of facts as they are determined. The member has one interpretation of them. I hear things about \$5,000 contracts, I hear things about phone calls and a lot of different things have entered into this discussion. I will get all of that and then I will make a judgement, and I will be assisted by the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, as is his responsibility.

**Mr B. Rae:** The Premier appears to be totally unsure of exactly what was said to him in the conversation that he had with the minister. He cannot tell me whether what he said yesterday was accurate in all respects. He says he may have misspoken himself yesterday. For all I know, he misspoke himself as well today.

The Premier says he had a conversation with the minister in which she told him certain information with respect to the awarding of a contract to her mother and the fact that she gave her mother's name to Mrs Starr. That information the Premier has from the minister, because he asked her about it and she told him. He has that information. On the basis of that information, does the Premier feel that his minister lived up to an acceptable standard of behaviour in one of his own cabinet ministers?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** The member is asking the same question he asked me yesterday, and my answer is the same as it was yesterday. I told my honourable friend that it has been referred to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. I will get the benefit of his advice and I will share my determination on the matter with the member at the appropriate time.

**The Speaker:** New question, the member for Sarnia.

**Mr Brandt:** My question is for the Premier as well. The Premier has admitted, as has the minister, that there was a conversation that took place between him and the minister in regard to this particular issue. I am sure that certain facts did transpire in terms of the details of what occurred in connection with the referral of the mother to Mrs Starr as being available for this particular survey work. On the basis of that information and that conversation which the Premier had with a minister whom he appointed, is he satisfied there was no conflict of interest, based on the minister's word?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** No, I am not. That is why I am soliciting the advice of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner on this matter. I know the member has drawn a conclusion on it, but I am making sure that we have a determination of all the facts, and with the advice of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner we will make a judgement. That is presumably what he is there for.

**Mr Brandt:** Perhaps the Premier could be helpful in providing the House with some information in regard to how this whole matter unfolded. He was aware, as were we on this side of the House, that there was a problem in connection with certain allegations regarding campaign contributions which took place in the media, in a very public sense, back in February of this year.

A full five months have gone by in connection with this particular issue. It is being debated now in the House but in fact, it has been a very public matter in the media over that period of time. Would the Premier share with this House what steps he has taken to get to the bottom of these allegations or what inquiries he has made over the ensuing five-month period until today, to determine the correctness of those allegations?

1430

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Absolutely. As soon as there was a suggestion of something untoward, that was sent immediately with all its facts to the Commission on Election Finances which called in the Ontario Provincial Police. The public

trustee has been working on this matter for I am not sure how many months, but he is looking into all these allegations. Therefore it is in the hands of independent people who are looking at all the facts. That is the answer to my honourable friend's question.

#### MUNICIPAL FUNDING

**Ms Poole:** My question is for the Treasurer. A number of my constituents recently have contacted our local Toronto and Metropolitan Toronto councillors to complain about large municipal tax increases. The response they have received from the municipal councillors is that property taxes have increased because the provincial government has cut back on funding to municipalities.

**Mr Reville:** Tell me it isn't so.

**Mr Pelissero:** Wait for the answer.

**The Speaker:** Order. Will the member continue.

**Ms Poole:** I was somewhat confused by this, because I saw an Ottawa Citizen article which said that municipalities' grants increased by eight per cent. I would like to know from the Treasurer what information he has to provide on this issue.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** Actually, the honourable member is entirely correct. The average increase across the province was eight per cent, and it continues to be this year.

[Applause]

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I appreciate the fact that my colleagues acknowledge that is a very generous grant indeed. In some areas, in fact, the increases were well over 10 per cent. Those dealing with environmental matters, community and social programs and transit—all of these were well above the average transfers over the last few years.

**Mr Pope:** In some areas there were no increases.

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** In spite of the barking going on in the uninformed seats in the House, the actual increase over last year was, I am glad to tell the honourable member, eight per cent.

**Ms Poole:** From what I could hear of the Treasurer's answer, I think he confirmed that it was eight per cent across the province. However, the second question is a little tougher. What I really want to know is, what about Metropolitan Toronto? What are the transfer payments to the municipality right here in Metro?

**Hon R. F. Nixon:** I am very pleased to be able to inform the member that, when it comes to

Metro, this particular jurisdiction will probably share more generously than any other in the \$415 million additional funding under the Ministry of Community and Social Services budget administered by my colleague.

More specifically, the road grants to the upper-tier municipality, Metro, will increase from \$36 million a year ago to \$43 million this year, a 19 per cent increase in one year. The capital spending on municipal transit systems will increase by 29 per cent to approximately \$200 million over the year. Unfortunately Mr Speaker, who gets restless at some of these long answers, will not permit me to give you the full list of these increases, but I can tell members that they are similarly sensitive, thoughtful and generous.

### CONDUCT OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Mr Farnan:** My question is to the Premier. Would the Premier recommend his mother or a close family relative for a \$5,000 contract to Patti Starr—

**Hon Mr Scott:** You don't even speak to your mother.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Farnan:** —and if he would not, is there a lower standard of behaviour that is acceptable for members of his cabinet?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I do not think it is helpful to my friend to indulge in hypothetical questions of this nature in the House.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Farnan:** The people of Ontario would have really liked an assurance from the Premier to such a question, that indeed he would not consider such a recommendation. The question has to be asked again, and I think the people of Ontario would expect this question to be answered. Would the Premier recommend a close member of his family for a \$5,000 contract from Patti Starr, and if he would not, is there a lower standard of behaviour that is acceptable for members of his cabinet?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** As my honourable friend will know, we have conflict-of-interest rules in this House. The independent commissioner will give advice on that and then I will make my judgement on the basis of his advice.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Harris:** I too have a question for the Premier on this matter. Today he has stated that

he does not wish to make a judgement until he has all the facts.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Harris:** I would like to ask the Premier this: He has acknowledged that he had a meeting with the minister involved. I assume at that meeting the minister would have given him all of the facts. I would like the Premier to explain to us today what facts he thinks the minister withheld from him.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I am not making that suggestion at all. How would I know if she withheld facts, because I would not know what the facts are? That is kind of a funny question, if I may say so.

**Mr Harris:** I really think this is a pretty straightforward matter. The impression the Premier is leaving is he does not have all the facts, yet he confirms he met with the minister on this matter. I would assume, under the type of premier-ministerial relationship one would expect, that the Premier would have expected that she gave him all the facts. I think it is a pretty fair question. Either he believes she gave them all to him or he does not, or he does not know and cannot tell what is right from wrong.

**The Speaker:** Is that your question?

**Mr Harris:** I would like to ask the Premier again, if he believes she gave him all the facts, why is there anything else that he needs to wait to hear, and if he does not, what does that say—

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr Harris:** —about the relationship that he is prepared to accept from his ministers?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I thought my honourable friend was aware that this matter has been referred to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and I am attending his judgement on that.

1440

### COURT RULING

**Mr Ferraro:** I have a question for the Attorney General. On 24 January of this year, two of my constituents in Guelph, a lovely young lady by the name of Julie Kaulbeck, age 16, and her mother, Jackie Kaulbeck, age 39, were seriously burned in a fire. Subsequent to that tragic event, a person was charged with arson and was detained in custody without bail.

On 21 February, Julie Kaulbeck died. On 24 March her mother, Jackie Kaulbeck, died. Both suffered in pain in hospital for weeks before their

deaths. The alleged arsonist was then charged with two counts of first degree murder.

My question to the Attorney General is this: On the arson charges, bail hearings were held in Guelph and bail was denied. On the murder charges, bail hearings were held in Toronto and the accused person was granted bail. In light of the outrage being expressed to me in my community over this serious crime, and now over this bail decision, can the Attorney General explain to me the logic behind a Guelph court denying bail for arson and a Toronto court granting bail on murder charges?

**Hon Mr Scott:** The circumstances that gave rise to the charges of arson and to the charges of murder were truly tragic and really quite shocking and I know the honourable member's constituents and all members of the House would want to take them very seriously.

The fact is that charges have been laid. The Criminal Code of Canada has a provision that sets standards for bail. Bail was granted, as the honourable member has said, by the appropriate judge in respect to the murder charges. The member will want to know that I have instructed the crown attorneys involved to appeal that decision to determine if it was appropriate in the circumstances.

**Mr Ferraro:** I thank the Attorney General for his comments. We are aware that the crown has applied for appeal of that decision. My question to the Attorney General is: Can he assure the people of Guelph, and indeed the Kaulbeck family, that every and all avenues of expediting this appeal process will be undertaken by the crown?

**Hon Mr Scott:** There are no backlog problems in Court of Appeal, which I believe will be hearing the appeal, but it will be necessary, as the honourable member knows, for the lawyers for the accused and for the crown to prepare their case. I want to assure the honourable member that we will do everything we can that is not inappropriate to see that the case is heard at an early date and I have instructed the crown attorney accordingly.

#### CONDUCT OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Mr B. Rae:** It is clear that for a great many people in this province, Liberal integrity is a lot like military intelligence. It appears to be a contradiction in terms.

**The Speaker:** The question is to which minister?

**Mr B. Rae:** My question is to the Premier. It is very straightforward. It is a very straightforward

question, because the Premier does not seem to understand, just as he did not understand with the Solicitor General, what the problem is and why he has a problem.

I want to ask the Premier this simple question: Is he telling us that if Mr Justice Evans tells him there is no conflict of interest with regard to what his cabinet minister did, as far as he is personally concerned there is no problem? Is that in fact what he is saying?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** No, I am not, but what I am saying is that his advice is a lot more objective than the member's.

**Mr B. Rae:** Talking about objectivity, the Premier is on record in April 1987, speaking at a dinner for Mrs Starr at which he was the guest speaker, saying, "I suspect there isn't a person in this room she hasn't touched," and then saying, "I can't tell you on how many occasions I have fallen victim to her enthusiasm."

**Hon Mr Scott:** Susan Fish and Barbara McDougall were prominent at that dinner.

**Mr B. Rae:** There were many other speakers at that dinner, including the Attorney General (Mr Scott), the Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms Oddie Munro) and countless others, including his Minister of Housing. So when we are talking about objectivity with regard to Mrs Starr and members of his cabinet, the Premier is in no position to talk.

The question that I have for the Premier is this: The work of Mr Justice Evans is to determine whether or not the law has been breached. This is a matter of ethics and morals and conduct, which Mr Justice Evans is not exclusively required to report on; indeed, that is not his job. It is the Premier's job to determine what are the ethical standards of members of his cabinet.

**Hon Mr Scott:** It is the very thing you asked he should do a year ago. It is the very thing you insisted should be in the bill.

**The Speaker:** Order. Question?

**Mr B. Rae:** If the Attorney General cannot take it and does not understand that distinction, then he does not understand the very law which the Attorney General has brought forward. He does not even understand his own law.

I want to ask the Premier: Does he understand the distinction between a conflict-of-interest law and a standard of ethical conduct which he should be requiring of his own ministers? Does he understand that difference?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Indeed, I do understand that. The member should understand that by shouting, he does not help the position he is

trying to put forward. This Legislature has defined, in a statute, a conflict-of-interest standard with an objective judge of that to give advice to the member or to any other member of this House.

The member agreed, as I recall, and participated in this debate and he indicated his confidence in Mr Justice Evans's judgements. Surely that is why he is there. Now the member wants to set his judgement ahead of Mr Justice Evans's judgement. That is normal, because the member always wants to set his judgement ahead of everybody's. But we on this side have a little more humility.

**Hon Ms Hošek:** On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** I am just wondering—usually we have a point of privilege with notice to the Speaker and I have not received that.

**Mr B. Rae:** I know what the minister wants to stand on. I was referring to her predecessor, the Minister of Skills Development (Mr Curling), who was in fact at the dinner, as Minister of Housing not the current minister. If I misled the House I correct the record.

**The Speaker:** That is a point of order.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Sterling:** I have a question of the Premier. I am not certain who actually wrote to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Mr Justice Evans, to request that the activities of the Minister of Culture and Communications be looked into. Was it the Premier or was it the minister?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** It was the minister.

**Mr Sterling:** I presume the Premier is referring to the Minister for Culture and Communications. Section 14 of the act provides the opportunity for any member of this Legislature to write to the conflicts commissioner to ask the conflicts commissioner his opinion and recommendations. But subsection 14(3) of the act says: "The opinion and recommendations of the commissioner are confidential, but may be released by the member"—in this case, the Minister of Culture and Communications—"or with the consent of the member in writing."

The Attorney General said yesterday that this Legislative Assembly would have the opportunity to have a full accounting of facts and findings to this Legislature within the scope of this piece of legislation.

How are we ever going to see what, in fact, the conflicts commissioner finds, when we are going

to need the consent of the person who is under scrutiny?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** My understanding of the act is that any member of this House has the opportunity to write to the commissioner with a particular point of view on any subject.

The member has taken advantage of the act when he alleged certain conflicts of interest and I am sure he can write to the commissioner and give him his opinion on this particular case. The member can share his views with the commissioner. I am sure he values them very highly. He agreed to this act and it is all there for everyone to see.

## YOUNG OFFENDERS

**Mr Faubert:** My question is to the Minister of Correctional Services. Over the past week we have read with interest a number of newspaper articles which discussed plans by the federal government to introduce changes to the manner in which it funds the administration of the Young Offenders Act.

Once again, it looks as though the federal government may be implementing cutbacks at the expense of the provincial governments. Can the minister advise the Legislature on what impact these changes will have for Ontario?

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** As the member is aware, the federal government has the legislative authority to enact criminal law legislation and it did in 1985, with the Young Offenders Act. But, of course, it is the responsibility of the provinces to administer that act. The focal point of that act back in 1984-85, when the discussions were coming to a conclusion, was the 50-50 cost-sharing. It was left that way, in an open-ended manner, because of sentencing patterns that were yet to be determined under the act. We were not sure exactly what the total costs were, so it was a difficult task in trying to finalize the funding.

As the member has alluded, about a month ago the federal government arbitrarily decided to freeze funding for our administering of the Young Offenders Act at the 1989 level. We are very concerned about that and the impact it may have on the provincial system.

1450

**Mr Faubert:** Residents from my riding of Scarborough-Ellesmere and, as all members are aware, residents across the province are becoming increasingly concerned about issues relating to young offenders and community safety. As the minister indicated, he is concerned about the federal government's ill-advised decision to cap its contributions for the administration of the

Young Offenders Act. I therefore ask the minister if he can advise the House on the efforts his ministry and this government are taking to address these concerns?

**Hon Mr Ramsay:** Last week, the Attorney General (Mr Scott) and myself made representations to the federal Minister of Justice in Prince Edward Island at a justice ministers' conference there, and Mr Lewis said the decision was final as far as the capping of the present programming was concerned.

I think the member would be interested to know that any new announcements, such as the one the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr Sweeney) and I made about a month ago, coming after 31 March, obviously are now going to be borne 100 per cent. So the increased security and staffing arrangements we wish to make with our agencies that implement various levels of custody for young offenders are now going to come at 100 per cent. We are very concerned about that and will continue to make our representations to the federal Justice minister.

#### CONDUCT OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Mr B. Rae:** I want to ask the Premier about this letter that went from the Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms Oddie Munro), apparently over her signature, to Mr Justice Evans. The Premier has told the House that in his view, Mr Justice Evans's reply to the minister would be made public.

I wonder if the Premier can tell us, is he prepared to make her letter to him public? In particular, personal barbs aside, the fact is that Mr Justice Evans is being asked, I presume, a question about the interpretation of the law, of the terms of that act. He is not responding to a request for advice on an ethical question from the Premier. Perhaps if I am wrong, the Premier could answer. Is the judge being asked to interpret the law or is the Premier personally asking the judge to give him some ethical advice on the ethical, moral conduct of one of his members?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I think the Attorney General could explain the law to the honourable member.

**Mr B. Rae:** That wasn't the question. He can't answer my question.

**The Speaker:** Order. It has been referred to the Attorney General.

**Hon Mr Scott:** In the minority government, the government of the day supported by what is

now the opposition, we were very anxious to have a conflict law. As honourable members will recall, in the debate the opposition particularly—a view I shared—wanted a broad definition of conflict and wanted a process established whereby alleged conflicts of interest could be assessed at the request of any member about any other or any member about himself. The opposition knows this because the honourable member for Carleton (Mr Sterling) has submitted a request about my conduct in the past to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and has got a reply that he can use in any way he wants.

The honourable member for Hamilton Centre (Ms Oddie Munro), the minister, has made a request to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner about her conduct. I have done the same in connection with other matters. If anybody here has any question about the propriety of her conduct, he can write a letter to the conflict commissioner and get precisely the same reply.

The reason this was done was so this caterwauling would stop and we would have a system that would be able to analyse effectively and fairly to all sides what the justice of the situation required. It was legislation the New Democratic Party supported. Then when it stops to work for them, they start barking.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Supplementary.

**Mr B. Rae:** I have no supplementary because the referral to the minister was improper. I will have another question later on for the Premier.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. New question, the member for Cochrane South.

**Mr Pope:** To the Premier: The Premier had a conversation with the Minister of Culture and Communications. Did the Premier believe she told him all the facts of this issue?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I have no reason to believe she misled me in any way.

**Mr Pope:** Then if the Premier believes the Minister of Culture and Communications told him all the facts, why does he have to have an investigation and why is the minister still in cabinet?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** There are a number of facts with respect to the invoicing and what expenses were involved that the minister was not aware of and we are in the process of determining all of those.

**Mr B. Rae:** I wonder if I could ask the Premier for an answer to my question. I asked the Premier this question. Is he prepared to make the letter to Mr Justice Evans public, and can he confirm that the letter asks the judge for his judgement with

respect to the law and that the Premier in fact is not asking Mr Justice Evans for ethical advice? Can he confirm those two things?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** Frankly, I have not seen the letter.

**Mr B. Rae:** The Premier, in a reply to me in which he made several comments about how he much preferred the advice of Mr Justice Evans to my own and how much he was relying on the judge's advice, gave me the clear impression, and perhaps, again, I have not heard him correctly, but I had the impression he was waiting for an answer to a specific letter that he is now telling us he has not even seen.

I want to ask the Premier this question: Will he insist the letter be made public and will he finally recognize that what the commissioner is entitled to do under the act is to make certain determinations under the act? What we are asking the Premier is, does he not see that there is a difference between conflicts that may be of a technical kind that are covered by the act, and general ethical questions that are not entirely covered by the legislation?

**The Speaker:** Thank you. There were quite a number of questions there.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I think the honourable Attorney General pointed out that my honourable friend would like it both ways and that is fair enough. There is no question that my judgements pertaining thereto, with the advice of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, will be public for all to see and all to make judgements about.

**The Speaker:** New question, the member for Cochrane South.

**Mr Pope:** To the Premier: Is the Premier saying he does not believe the mother of the Minister of Culture and Communications received \$5,000 on a contract with Ms Starr?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** No.

**Mr Pope:** The Premier is saying he does not believe an admitted public fact. He does not believe it is true? Is that what he is saying? Is this what he is saying, that he does not believe it is true? What facts are left to investigate? He has a statement from his own minister given to him in confidence. He has the admitted public knowledge of a contract in which \$5,000 was paid to the mother of the Minister of Culture and Communications, and we have an admitted fact—

**The Speaker:** Question.

**Mr Pope:** —that there was a contractual relationship between an agency funded by the minister and the mother of the minister. What

other facts do he need to make a decision whether or not the ethical standards of the cabinet minister have been broken?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** My honourable friend is getting into this discussion late and is being very repetitive. I think I have answered that question on many, many occasions but I will try to help him out again. There are a number of facts with respect to invoicing, services rendered and other things that the minister did not have information on. I am going to gather up all that information. I am going to get the advice of the conflict commissioner and then I will have to make a judgement for which I will have to take the responsibility.

**Mr B. Rae:** A point of order, Mr Speaker: It deals with a series of facts that were put before the Legislature by the Attorney General (Mr Scott). I wonder if he would be prepared to correct the record and make it very clear that the legislation he is referring to was passed by the majority and that in fact it was opposed by both parties in opposition. That is a major setback.

**Hon Mr Scott:** I recollect it differently, but if the honourable member says that is the case, I am perfectly prepared to submit to his view.

**Mr B. Rae:** Hansard, 9 February 1988; the official record. Have a look. See 9 February 1988.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. The member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr South) is waiting patiently to ask a question.

1500

## HEALTH MINISTRY EMPLOYEES

**Mr South:** My question is to the Minister of Health with respect to the government's recent budget initiative, which replaces Ontario health insurance plan premiums with a new employer health levy. I would like to ask the minister what impact that initiative will have on OHIP employees in Kingston where premium collection activity is centred.

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** I want to acknowledge the member's interest in this very important question. As members will know, it has been the policy of the government for some time to remove OHIP premiums as a way of funding the health system. We acknowledge there will be an impact on the people working for OHIP in Kingston.

A transition team of senior ministry staff has been established to work with the Human

Resources Secretariat as well as union representatives to minimize the effects of this significant policy change.

As well, the human resources staff will be working with managers in the claims divisions to help affected employees find other jobs in the public service, to incorporate staff retirements and departures and also to look for other opportunities: job-sharing, opportunities in government and in other ministries. As well, we will be providing counselling and training opportunities.

We care about our employees in Kingston and intend to be a good employer, not only in spirit but in action.

### CONDUCT OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Mr Reville:** My question is to the Premier. It refers to the matter in relation to the Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms Oddie Munro) and the referral to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

On page L-11 of yesterday's Instant Hansard, the Premier is quoted as saying, "I have turned it over to the conflict commissioner, as I said." On page L-19, the Minister of Culture and Communications says, "I indicated today that I had referred the matter to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner."

Now, would the Premier state which it is? He referred it? She referred it? They both referred it? Can we see the letters?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** She referred it and obviously I concur with that.

**Mr Reville:** It must be that the sound system is not working. I missed the answer. There was a buzzing in my ear.

**Hon Mr Peterson:** We are all used to that and have been for many years around here. The answer is that she sent the letter and I concurred with that. I have not seen the letter, but obviously it turns the whole matter over to him.

**Mr Reville:** When the Premier said, "I have turned it over to the conflict commissioner, as I said," the Premier misspoke himself? On page L-11 the Premier said, "I have turned it over to the conflict commissioner." Did the Premier misspeak himself?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I do not think I said that I personally wrote the conflict commissioner. She wrote. The member is interested in pretending there is some great conspiracy here and there is not. He wants to play lawyer in this House and he is not very good at it, but that is okay. It has been

turned over to the conflict commissioner the way it has been discussed.

### AWARD OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

**Mr Harris:** I have a question for the Minister of Housing. Many are deeply concerned about the way contracts are awarded by the Minister of Housing and by agencies the minister is responsible for. I have asked the minister on previous occasions about contracts that were awarded to Tridel and other companies owned by Elvio Del Zotto, president of the Ontario Liberal Party and a major contributor to the campaign of the Minister of Housing. There are a number of reports about the contravention of tendering policies and the special treatment that had been given to Tridel. I wonder if the minister could tell us today what steps she has taken to investigate these reports.

**Ms Poole:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I would just like to correct the record or ask the member to correct his own record. Mr Del Zotto is not president of the Ontario Liberal Party. That is Kathryn Robinson.

**The Speaker:** That is, I suppose, a request. However, I am sure the member—

**Hon Mr Grandmaitre:** They are two separate parties. You've learned something, Mike.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. You have placed your question. Are you happy?

**Mr Harris:** Which everybody knows means he has absolutely no contact, I guess, with the provincial Liberal Party.

**Hon Ms Hošek:** I am sorry, but the member's question is extremely general. Will he please be specific about what he is referring to.

**The Speaker:** Supplementary.

**Mr Harris:** Is this a supplementary or am I to clarify my first question? I am really not sure.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. I called for a supplementary. Will you please place the supplementary.

**Mr Harris:** I will repeat the first question, which the minister refused to answer. I think it is pretty simple. Can the minister tell us what steps she has taken to investigate these reports. That is word for word what I asked her in the first question.

**Hon Ms Hošek:** In the question I heard, there was a vague statement about reports of some relationship between my ministry and a named company. I do not know to what the member

opposite is referring. If he has something specific to ask, let him ask it.

### CHOLESTEROL TESTING

**Mr Neumann:** My question is for the Minister of Health. I recently received a letter from one of my constituents who had some concerns about the decision taken with respect to the reduction in screening for cholesterol. Would the minister indicate what the status is of this policy decision and deal with the concerns raised—

**Mr B. Rae:** Solve the cholesterol problem. Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Neumann:** —by my constituent that reduction in screenings for cholesterol is not a good health decision because it will reduce the number of indications of people with this problem and not be good for preventive health care.

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** I would like to thank the member for the question because in fact, for the very first time, the Ontario Medical Association and the Ontario Ministry of Health have endorsed a report with suggested guidelines for physicians and consumers on cholesterol testing in the province. Dr Henry Gassman, the president of the Ontario Medical Association, and myself released the report and accepted the report.

I would say to the member that as part of the release of these new guidelines, and it is an important step, information is available to both physicians and consumers about the appropriateness of testing. The ultimate decision of course is between the patient and his or her physician.

**Mr Neumann:** This is a very important issue dealing with health care, and I noted my colleagues in the Liberal Party asked questions today on substantive matters.

As we proceed along with this policy of reduced testing for cholesterol, does the minister have a way in which this new policy will be monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure it is the right decision for good, preventive health care in Ontario?

**Mr Laughren:** Just keep sucking up, Dave. You'll get somewhere. Lick somebody else's boots.

Interjections.

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** To the members of the House, this is a very significant and important question. I am surprised members of the opposition have not asked it before now.

The number of people who are interested in the new guidelines for cholesterol testing is signifi-

cant. Many physicians as well as consumers have expressed interest in the report that was conducted by Dr David Naylor and Dr John Frank. For technical questions, I would refer them to these doctors, who could answer specific questions. But it is important that the discussions on the consensus among the medical profession is under way and that the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, as well as the Ontario Medical Association, is very interested in the implementation of this new guideline.

1510

### USE OF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION'S FUNDS

**Mr B. Rae:** I have a question for the Premier, and it is not about cholesterol. He now says he had a conversation with the Minister of Culture and Communication (Ms Oddie Munro). Did the Premier, in that conversation with the minister, express any personal view to her as to his judgement about her conduct? Did he state at any time that he had certain views with respect to what she did?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** My honourable friend may think it is a fair question, just as I may think it is a fair question to ask the member about his conversation with his colleagues or report my views. Let me say to him I handled this situation in the way that I have described to my honourable friend and I have referred it to the commissioner for his advice.

**Mr B. Rae:** The Premier has not answered that question. Perhaps I could ask him another. Certain allegations were made about people who were paid large consulting fees by Mrs Starr and who, in turn, made contributions to the campaign of the member for Oakwood (Ms Hošek). There have been allegations with respect to contributions made to the member for St Andrew-St Patrick (Mr Kanter). Has the Premier spoken to either the member for Oakwood or the member for St Andrew-St Patrick about those contributions?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** My honourable friend would like to pry into these private conversations, and I guess he has every right to ask, but let me say that what we are doing is determining the facts in an independent way on all of the allegations made. My staff has looked at a number of these things and I have said to my honourable friend in this House that there were allegations printed in the newspaper that I am told are factually incorrect.

**Mr B. Rae:** Told by whom?

**Hon Mr Peterson:** I am told that by a number of people. That being said, we are going to get an independent view of this situation. Just as my honourable friend cannot stand up in the House and substantiate any of these, cannot confirm the truth or lack thereof of these allegations, what we want is an independent group to look at these, and that is what we are doing.

### PETITIONS

#### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** I have two petitions, on two different matters. The first is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to 31 May, 1982, have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"This proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

It has many signatures and I have affixed my own name thereto as well.

#### SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** The second is from the parishioners of St Paul's Church and others:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We are concerned about the response of the Ontario government to the Social Assistance Review Committee report, Transitions. Our worry is that the government will not make any meaningful progress in reforming the welfare system because they are not taking this report seriously. We strongly urge the government of Ontario to make this excellent plan for reform a priority."

It also has many signatures on it and I have affixed my own.

#### HOME CARE

**Mr Black:** I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We support the expansion of home care and visiting nurses services as the most cost-efficient

mode of health care delivery. We therefore want our government to adequately fund the Victorian Order of Nurses."

There are several signatures on this and I have added my name.

**Mr McLean:** I have two petitions. On behalf of the member for Simcoe West (Mr McCague), I have petitions signed by 51 people which read as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We support the expansion of home care and visiting nurses services as the most cost-efficient mode of health care delivery. We therefore want our government to adequately fund the Victorian Order of Nurses."

That is from the Simcoe county branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses.

#### FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**Mr McLean:** I have a petition that I have been asked to present on behalf of 654 people who signed it. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the duty of a free people to constantly guard and, if necessary, defend those freedoms; and

"Whereas the French Language Services Act elevates one linguistic group into lawful, but unjust, privilege over 95 per cent of all Ontarians; and

"Whereas the French Language Services Act has since 18 November 1986 been implemented in secret without the public being made aware of its implementation and to which access has been denied to the public and even to the elected members of this assembly; and

"Whereas such implementation is plunging forward at enormous cost while health care, police and fire protection, municipal grants, education and the environment are experiencing cutbacks in funding; and

"Whereas no minority can expect for long to enjoy the advantages of a law that shows such reckless disregard for majority sensitivities; and

"Whereas the views of the majority of the citizens of Ontario were not represented on 18 November 1986 as only 55 of the 125 elected members of the Legislature were present to vote,

"Therefore, to preserve patience and goodwill in the name of justice and for the love of

harmony, we implore this House to refrain from further implementation of the French Language Services Act."

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Mr Kormos:** I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, which reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario:

"Whereas Bill 162 (a) does nothing to improve lifetime pensions (especially for disease and soft-tissue injuries); (b) denies injured workers the right to rehabilitation; (c) offers re-employment rights that are less than afforded by the human rights act; (d) gives too much discretionary power to the WCB to deny injured workers benefits; (e) restricts the injured workers' right to appeal,

"We request this assembly to advise the Labour minister, the Honourable Gregory Sorbara, to withdraw said Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act."

This is signed by Ray Rousseau of Welland and nine others and, of course, by myself.

#### SENIOR CITIZENS' APARTMENTS

**Mr Harris:** I have two petitions. The first reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor" etc:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas in 1973 the Ontario Housing Corp. constructed a senior citizen complex consisting of a senior citizen apartment building situated at 135 Worthington Street West, in the city of North Bay; and

"Whereas it has come to our attention that senior citizen apartments have been rented to nonseniors;

"Be it resolved that we the undersigned support the establishment of a regulation whereby senior citizen apartments be made available to seniors only."

This petition is signed by about 20 residents. It is about the fifth one I have presented on the same subject. As the rules require, I too have signed this.

#### FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**Mr Harris:** I have a second petition, a little longer one, that was presented to me with 536 names, which reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the duty of a free people to constantly guard and, if necessary, defend those freedoms; and

"Whereas the French Language Services Act elevates one linguistic group into lawful, but unjust, privilege over 95 per cent of all Ontarians; and

"Whereas the French Language Services Act has since 18 November 1986 been implemented in secret without the public being made aware of its implementation and to which access has been denied to the public and even to the elected members of this assembly; and

"Whereas such implementation is plunging forward at enormous cost while health care, police and fire protection, municipal grants, education and the environment are experiencing cutbacks in funding; and

"Whereas no minority can expect for long to enjoy the advantages of a law that shows such reckless disregard for majority sensitivities; and

"Whereas the views of the majority of the citizens of Ontario were not represented on 18 November 1986 as only 55 of the 125 elected members of the Legislature were present to vote,

"Therefore, to preserve patience and goodwill, in the name of justice and for the love of harmony, we implore this House to refrain from further implementation of the French Language Services Act.

"We further respectfully request the above-mentioned member of Parliament to stand and read this petition imploring every member of this House to study this law and to demand a copy of its implementation procedures manual and to bravely reveal the contents of both law and implementation to his or her constituents, who may then respond with a ballot in the next Ontario election."

**The Speaker:** Once again, this might be an appropriate time to remind all members that it is perfectly in order to present petitions stating the material allegations. In other words, I simply state that it is fine to give us the therefores but it is not necessary for the whereases.

1520

#### TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

**Mr Morin-Strom:** Mr Speaker, I will abide by your wishes and not read the whereases to this petition which is presented by residents of my community, Sault Ste Marie. It reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to insist that the Treasurer of Ontario

negotiate with the Ontario Teachers' Federation towards an equitable settlement."

I support it, I have signed it and I present it for their consideration.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Miss Martel:** Mr Speaker, taking your advice, I will leave out the whereases only because I do not have any on this petition. It is addressed:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We urge the Liberal government to scrap Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act,

"Because Bill 162 contains the most significant changes to the Ontario system of workers' compensation contemplated for many years, and yet, as was confirmed through the public hearings on the bill, was developed without an adequate process of public consultation with the stakeholders; and

"Because Bill 162 represents an attack on injured workers and their families and all those people who have fought over the years to achieve fairness and justice for injured workers and their families; and

"Because Bill 162 will eliminate the current lifetime pension for lifetime disability and replace it with a dual award system combining a lump sum and wage loss award benefit that has been rejected by injured workers, their advocacy groups, community legal workers and lawyers working on their behalf and by the trade union movement since it was first proposed for implementation in Ontario by the 1980 Weiler report and the Conservative government's 1981 white paper; and

"Because Bill 162 virtually ignores the devastating critique and recommendations of the Majesky-Minna task force report on vocational rehabilitation that was submitted to the Minister of Labour and suppressed by the Liberal government until April 1988; and

"Because Bill 162 gives legislative form to the unacceptable and reactionary policy of restricting access to supplement awards announced by the Workers' Compensation Board in 1987; and

"Because through Bill 162, injured workers are made subject to increased discretionary power at the hands of the Workers' Compensation Board and made subject to ever more intrusive and demeaning assaults on their dignity, their privacy and their right to fair and just treatment."

This is signed by seven members of the Mississauga Community Legal Services. I agree

with them entirely and I have put my signature to it.

#### REPORT BY COMMITTEE

#### STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Mr Callahan from the standing committee on the administration of justice presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill with certain amendments:

Bill 187, An Act to amend certain Acts as they relate to Police and Sheriffs.

**The Speaker:** Shall the report be received and adopted? No? Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

**Mr Sterling:** After the committee dealing with this piece of legislation sat yesterday, there was a consideration that we wanted to give to another submission that we received after yesterday's hearing. Therefore, I believe that after you ask for this motion, we will have the opportunity, as a Legislative Assembly, if you then ask whether or not this bill should be ordered for third reading, if one member stands and says no, then it will be ordered for the committee of the whole House.

I want to bring that to the attention of the members: that if we do pass this motion, then we will have an opportunity, as I understand it, to say no when you pose the question as to whether or not this bill should be ordered for third reading. Could you confirm that?

**Hon Mr Conway:** Speaking to the point made by the member for Carleton (Mr Sterling), I understand what he is saying, and certainly the government is quite prepared, since this item of business has to be dealt with so that the report will or will not be received or adopted. Once that question is dealt with, I am quite prepared to have the matter ordered for committee of the whole House for some further discussion.

**Mr Kormos:** If I may, the comments so far are quite right, in that the committee considered the matter yesterday and was without the benefit of a letter which had been written by His Honour Judge Nevins, who is chairman of the law reform committee of the Ontario Family Court Judges Association. It is a rather detailed letter, and as I understand it, it was through no one's fault—at the very worst, inadvertence—that it was not available to the committee yesterday. It raises some very strong and valid issues. Had the committee—

**The Speaker:** All right. I just want the member to know that we are not discussing the bill, we are discussing the process. I hope you understand that.

**Mr Kormos:** I understand there has been a motion made, and if I may, in speaking to that motion what I am suggesting, very respectfully, is that, among others, the chairman of the law reform committee would surely be disappointed if his submission had not been considered along with the many others by the committee.

With the unanimous consent of this House, this matter could be referred back to the justice committee so that the committee—rather than the committee of the whole, could reconsider the issues that were before it yesterday, along with the very learned and careful and well-prepared submission of the chairman of the law reform committee of the Ontario Family Court Judges Association.

Mr Speaker, you talk about us discussing process now. It would be an omission of a very important part of the process not to have the committee consider this bill in light of the very wise comments that are made by His Honour Judge Nevins. I would ask that the House give its unanimous consent to have this matter referred back to the justice committee so that the bill can be considered in light of this new submission which was not previously available, although it was intended to have been available to the committee when it considered and discussed this matter yesterday; that is to say, Monday of this week.

**Mr Callahan:** The only comment I would have is that we presently have a very important issue scheduled for next week which deals with the question of salaries for judges. Perhaps my friend is suggesting we delay that until this is done.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. There is a question before the House.

**Mr Hampton:** What disturbs us is that this submission from the Honourable Judge Nevins is directed to the standing committee on administration of justice for the committee's consideration. If it had been placed before the members yesterday in committee, as it should have been—and it was only a mistake or no one's particular error that it did not get there—it would have been considered. We are saying that the appropriate place for this to be considered is by the standing committee on administration of

justice, as it should have been considered yesterday.

If that screws up the government's schedule, then that is too bad. The government has done a good enough job screwing up its own schedule in the past. We cannot be responsible for that, but this is where it should be considered, in that committee.

**Mr D. R. Cooke:** Can you say that with a straight face?

**Mr Hampton:** Yes. We sat here through all of—

**The Speaker:** Order. I called for committee reports. The committee report was presented. I placed the motion, "Shall the report be received and adopted?"

Are you ready for the question? Are you in favour of the report being received and adopted?

1530

The House divided on Mr Callahan's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

#### Ayes

Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bossy, Breagh, Brown, Callahan, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Charlton, Cleary, Collins, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cooke, D. S., Cousens, Curling, Daigeler, Elliot, Epp, Eves, Fawcett, Fleet, Fulton, Haggerty, Hampton, Harris, Hart, Henderson, Hošek, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Johnston, R. F., Kanter, Kormos, Kozyra;

Laughren, Lipsett, Lupusella, MacDonald, Mahoney, Martel, McGuinty, Morin-Strom, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Offer, O'Neill, Y., Philip, E., Phillips, G., Poirier, Polsinelli, Poole, Pouliot, Reycraft, Roberts, Ruprecht, Smith, D. W., South, Sterling, Sullivan, Tatham, Villeneuve, Wildman, Wong.

Ayes 67; nays 0.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

##### POWER CORPORATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1989

Hon Mr Wong moved second reading of Bill 204, An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act.

**Hon Mr Wong:** In January 1989 the government introduced a comprehensive set of amendments to the Power Corporation Act. Today, I am pleased to take this opportunity to remind members of the intent of this legislation.

In the throne speech of November 1987, this government made a commitment to review the Power Corporation Act in order to ensure that Ontario Hydro is in a position to be more responsive to government policies and public priorities.

We have met this commitment. Our amendments were designed to ensure that Hydro can meet our goal of reliable, low-cost electricity supplies achieved in a socially and environmentally sound way. This legislation clearly establishes the government policy framework within which the utility must operate.

It gives the government the authority to issue policy statements that Hydro shall respect in performing its corporate duties. In plain English, this means that Hydro should leave no stone unturned in order to conform with government policy.

A key amendment is a new memorandum of understanding between the government and Hydro, which will take effect when this legislation is passed. In effect, this will help to lay out the government's current priorities in the shorter term in the next three years.

**1540**

The memorandum addresses several important issues and provides the following:

Ontario Hydro will give government all necessary information on a timely basis to ensure that the province can make the best possible decisions about Ontario's energy future.

A Hydro committee will be established, comprised of a number of senior ministers and the Premier. It will meet at least four times a year with Hydro's chairman and president to ensure Hydro is aware of and responds to a wide set of government concerns.

Legislative roadblocks in the areas of conservation and parallel generation will be removed so that Hydro will be able to provide incentives for these initiatives.

The government will play an active, ongoing role in assessing targets for conservation and parallel generation and evaluating the effectiveness of the methods for attaining these targets.

Hydro must ensure its programs are compatible with the government's environmental goals, including the improvement of air and water quality through lowered emissions.

Hydro must provide the ministers of Energy and the Environment with reports on its initiative and targets for environmental protection.

As well, Hydro will identify lands surplus to its needs and grant the government first refusal to purchase such lands for Housing First initiatives.

Sections of the amendments to the Power Corporation Act also preserve the government's ability to carry out energy policies for the good of Ontario and Canada under the free trade agreement.

The electricity needs of Ontario and Canadian consumers will be given priority. Electricity will be exported only when it is surplus to our needs and only when the price is higher than the domestic price for equivalent service.

This legislative package acknowledges the areas in which Hydro excels but recognizes that it is a public utility that must serve the public interest.

This government made a commitment to position Ontario Hydro to respond effectively to new and evolving government objectives and public concerns. It has been 15 years since the Power Corporation Act had a major overhaul. Updating the PCA in order to meet today's energy and electricity environment and that of the next century is what we will be accomplishing with the passage of these amendments. We will be setting the framework to take Ontario into the next century with respect to electricity policy. These initiatives meet that commitment.

I am looking forward to the comments of the opposition critics. I understand there is some sense that this bill should be exposed to committee hearings. I would be more than willing to ensure that this is done.

**Mr Cureatz:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I am wondering if the minister would oblige us with a copy of his introductory remarks to the bill.

**Hon Mr Wong:** I would be more than pleased to do that.

**Mrs Grier:** As the minister has said, it has certainly been a long time since the Power Corporation Act was reviewed or overhauled. In terms of this government, it has taken four years to finally get to this point, because it was not just in the throne speech of 1987 that an overhaul of the Power Corporation Act was first promised. I think long before it took office the Liberal Party was claiming that once it did take office it was going to bring Hydro under control.

It has taken the reports of two select committees nudging the government in that direction to finally get today to the point where we are discussing amendments to the Power Corporation Act, and regrettably, we are still some distance from bringing Hydro under control, because the amendments to the Power Corporation Act are only one part of the package.

I regret that we do not have before us at the same time amendments to the Ontario Energy Board Act, amendments which would not only take us closer to bringing Hydro under control but also take us closer to having full public accountability and the opportunity for those of us in the public to know the facts, the figures, the assessments, the targets and the estimates of Hydro and to subject them to some public scrutiny.

The first select committee, which was appointed in 1985 and met and discussed primarily the continuation of the Darlington project and then went on to review a series of recommendations that had been made by previous select committees, came up with a number of recommendations dealing with how Hydro could be made more accountable to this Legislature, to the government and to the people of Ontario.

When the second select committee was appointed, the one that reported in January of this year, it was obvious that very few or in fact none of the recommendations of the first select committee had been adopted by the government. It is interesting to review the status of the recommendations of the first select committee as reported upon by the second select committee and see how little this legislation moves towards implementing those recommendations.

One of those recommendations was that, "The Ontario government should specify the social, environmental and political framework within which Ontario Hydro's planning is to take place." The response we got in 1988 was, "This matter may be addressed as a result of the Ministry of Energy's review of the Power Corporation Act and Ontario Energy Board Act."

Recommendation 8 said, "Prior to final approval of the forecast by the Ontario Hydro board of directors, the Ministry of Energy should be required to publish, in addition to its own forecast range, a formal response to Ontario Hydro's draft forecast range." To which the government replied, "This matter may be addressed in the Ministry of Energy's review of the Power Corporation Act and Ontario Energy Board Act."

Recommendation 12 was that, "The Power Corporation Act should be amended to allow Ontario Hydro to engage in the full range of options for promoting conservation." This we have now moved to implement with the recommendations of changes to the Power Corporation Act, so that is a positive move. But recommendation 14 spelled out how that should perhaps happen. That recommendation said:

"The Ministry of Energy should develop and publish detailed plans for parallel generation options including: specific targets, financial and contractual arrangements; the role of Ontario Hydro in promoting parallel generation; additional research development and demonstration programs needed; and information and marketing efforts.

"The government must direct Ontario Hydro to incorporate these plans into its own annual resource plans."

How, in 1988, did the ministry respond to the next select committee about recommendation 14? The response was, "These matters may be considered in the current select committee's review of DSPS or the ministry's review of the Power Corporation Act." I would submit that the specifics of that recommendation are missing from the amendments to the Power Corporation Act that we are today reviewing.

Recommendation 16 of the first select committee said, "The Ontario Energy Board should be empowered to hold biannual public reviews of Ontario Hydro's resource development plan, and publish a public report with recommendations to cabinet." The response was, "This matter may be considered in the Ministry of Energy's review of the Power Corporation Act and Ontario Energy Board Act."

Recommendation 19 said, "Ontario Hydro should publish, for review by the Ministry of Energy, a detailed evaluation of all strategic marketing programs including goals, objectives, costs, and benefits." The response? "This matter may be addressed in the Ministry of Energy's review of the Power Corporation Act."

Recommendation 21 deals with the memorandum of understanding and points out that "it should become a formal legislative requirement." This, again, is one recommendation that has been addressed by the amendments to the Power Corporation Act.

The final recommendation dealing with the structure of Ontario Hydro said that, "The Ontario Energy Board Act should be amended to give the board the powers to regulate electricity rates." The response was, "This matter could be addressed in the Ministry of Energy's review of the Power Corporation Act and Ontario Energy Board Act."

**1550**

My point in enunciating these recommendations is to draw attention to the fact that while today we are indeed looking at some amendments to the Power Corporation Act, amendments which I welcome and which my party will

be supporting in this debate, it is only a very small part of the package of reforms and changes that two select committees have said ought to be undertaken by this government. I really regret that we do not have the complete package before us today so we could see where, in fact, this government intends to go in taking control of Ontario Hydro.

Recommendation 4, that the "government should specify the social, environmental and political framework within which Ontario Hydro's planning is to take place," is the big missing piece of the puzzle. We have not had from this government, contrary to what the minister has just said, a clearly established policy framework of where this government wants to go in providing power to this province into the next century.

The minister says these amendments do that. I suggest that what these amendments do is provide a mechanism by which the government can do that, but the government has still failed to clearly enunciate an integrated and comprehensive policy so the people of the province know clearly what direction this government wishes Ontario Hydro to take.

The minister has been at some pains to point out the details that are going to be included in the memorandum of understanding and to claim we are hereby, by these amendments to the act that establish the memorandum of understanding as a legislative tool, making some moves towards gaining greater control over Ontario Hydro.

I want to point out to the minister that the memorandum of understanding is not a new tool. It may be newly incorporated into the act, but it has been there for some time. It has been a way in which this government could direct Ontario Hydro, I think, practically ever since Ontario Hydro was created, if that was what the government wanted to do.

In the way in which the memorandum of understanding has now been changed, as described by the minister, we are seeing a very internal process. It is a committee of ministers that is going to be dealing with Ontario Hydro. The government is going to play a role in assessing the targets of Ontario Hydro. The Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of the Environment are to receive information from Ontario Hydro as to how it will be setting its targets and doing its estimates. Nowhere in the memorandum of understanding, as described by the minister, is there a role for the public.

The fact is that we have not amended the Ontario Energy Board Act to give them some

control. We have not substituted for giving them some control, any legislative control. This policy and the statement by the minister is very silent on the crucial recommendation of both select committees which was that an ongoing committee of this Legislature be established to review the energy policies of the government and the policies of Ontario Hydro.

I think that is a significant omission from the legislation that is before us today and that this government seems to be contemplating, because I have not heard from the minister any timetable by which the amendments to the Ontario Energy Board Act might be brought before this House.

While in principle we support this legislation, we welcome it at long last and we look forward to amendments and discussion when it is referred to a committee, we only wish it could be coupled with a more meaningful step that would truly and at long last bring Ontario Hydro under control, not just by the government, but by the Legislature and the people of Ontario.

**Mr Runciman:** I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this debate. As one of the members of our party who served on the now-defunct select committee on energy, I am certainly going to pursue the question of the possibility of a future for that select committee during my comments, as I am sure my colleague the critic for the Ministry of Energy, the member for Durham East (Mr Cureatz) will, as well.

The minister has indicated, through a variety of press releases, that Bill 204 is an attempt to meet the promise made by the Liberal campaign in the previous provincial election. Perhaps in some respects it does go a way towards meeting that promise.

The idea of accountability of Ontario Hydro to government or, more importantly, to the people of Ontario is certainly a significant one, one that has been talked about for many years. We certainly heard the current Premier (Mr Peterson), in his former role as opposition leader, make some very critical comments of Ontario Hydro and the former government in respect to its lack of accountability to that government.

I guess, with the minister present, I am not sure, and I am certainly not speaking on behalf of my party in respect to this, but I think that perhaps there should be more innovative ways reviewed, studied, looked at in respect to making Ontario Hydro a more manageable entity, if you will. Perhaps one of those might be the possibility of taking a look at the generating arm of Ontario Hydro and if indeed that generating

arm, for the most part, has to be under the direct control of Ontario Hydro.

We had witnesses appear before us at the select committee hearings representing municipal utilities, a few of which operate their own generating facilities in this province. We had a number of others appear who indicated a willingness to assume responsibility for the operation of generating facilities, that now do indeed exist in their municipalities or in a regional municipality perhaps.

That may be one avenue that is worthy of consideration by this government, in respect to perhaps lessening that overwhelming bureaucracy, a very significant force indeed in this province, and giving the minister and the government, and the managers of Hydro themselves, perhaps an opportunity to bring that monolith under a little more control than we have witnessed in the past.

I do not think, and I am sure most members who served on the select committee would agree with this comment, that the transmission arm is something that should be divested of, in any way, shape or form. That is much too important and certainly, in our view, should not be looked at. But I think, in terms of the generation abilities of Ontario Hydro, there are certain aspects of it that could indeed be responsibilities assumed by municipal utilities.

We are looking at increased opportunities in parallel generation. Again, those obviously can involve the private sector. In my own riding, I have one of the few private utility companies in the province, the Gananoque Light and Power Co, which is an excellent small business in my riding, very responsible corporate citizens indeed, and I am very proud to have that company established in my riding.

I think that in the past, the private sector has too frequently been overlooked as a source of power generation in this province. Again, Gananoque Light and Power sets an outstanding example for the role, the contribution that the private sector can make in terms of meeting the energy needs of this province in the years to come.

I want to talk a bit about Ontario Hydro and the lack of accountability. The concerns that I had, serving as Energy critic previously and certainly during my time on the select committee—a number of things have been occurring in Ontario Hydro, which I have in the past urged the minister to try to grapple with. Up to this point, I really have not had satisfactory responses from him in that respect.

I am sure that it is a difficult job for him as a rookie minister, someone new to the executive council and new to provincial Parliament, having to take on, in any way, shape or form, the head honchos at Ontario Hydro. I know that this is indeed a daunting challenge. I placed it before the minister, and I hope that at some point in the future he will begin to try to tackle some of these problems head-on.

I have mentioned the Cresap study that was done last year, which just looked at one operation of Ontario Hydro—I think it was the marketing function, I am not sure—but it clearly indicated 2,500 redundant employees in that one division of Ontario Hydro. What has been the corporation's response to that report? We are into a program called resource smoothing, so that in effect we are not going to get rid of any redundant employees; we are going to find different spots for them in the corporation.

#### 1600

The real response to a study indicating 2,500 redundant employees was an announcement by Ontario Hydro that it was going to build a new structure in the municipality of North York, a multimillion-dollar new edifice to house—how many employees? Approximately 2,500 employees. There is a lot of irony in that announcement, I am sure the minister will agree. We have the announcement one month that they have 2,500 redundant employees, followed very shortly thereafter by an announcement that they are going to build a new building to house approximately 2,500 Ontario Hydro employees.

That is one element. We could always talk about the significant deficit around the neck of Ontario Hydro and around the neck of taxpayers in this province. We have looked at the significant overruns at Darlington, which again contribute to that ever-increasing deficit. We see no real willingness on the part of Ontario Hydro to deal in any meaningful way with that debt problem.

Last year, I asked the minister in terms of a windfall that Ontario Hydro was about to face because of the difference in the Canadian and US dollars. I am drawing on memory, but it was going to be in excess of \$100 million in windfall for Ontario Hydro. I suggested that windfall be applied to a one-time payment on the debt. Its significance over a period of 10 to 15 years was enormous, but the minister again was wishy-washy in terms of his response and certainly did not indicate any willingness to pursue the matter with Ontario Hydro to ensure that those kinds of unforeseen windfall dollars would be applied

where they should be and where there is an ever-increasing concern in this country and in this province with respect to the debt burden confronting us as residents of this province and residents of this country.

Again, I think it draws clear attention to the fact that this minister and this government, and perhaps predecessor governments, have really not had the ability to deal in a meaningful way with the powers that be at Ontario Hydro and really send them some strong messages in terms of dealing in an effective way with their very significant debt burden.

Again, another problem area and one of concern has been the question of conservation. We went through this in the select committee with respect to Ontario Hydro's efforts to promote energy conservation in this province. I think we are seeing some changing attitudes there, but they have been slow to come around to the realization that the people of this province want to see an emphasis on conservation, not an emphasis on increasing market share.

I am sure the minister will have to agree that essentially has been the focus of Ontario Hydro over the past five or 10 years. If he has looked at their advertising, again it has been an effort to increase market share, and not a real, sustained or meaningful or committed effort to try to encourage conservation in this province.

I look at their advertising now, and I think essentially it is directed along those kinds of lines, and not in an effort to promote increased use of electricity generated by Ontario Hydro. I think it is a message that has to filter down to a lot of municipal utilities as well that are continuing to make an effort to increase market share in their own municipalities. I think that is something that should be assessed and the direction, I believe, should be coming from the minister in that respect.

There should be very clear indications to these utilities on the local level that this is the sort of approach we have to reassess. Is it indeed in the long-term best interests of this province? I would suggest to the minister that there are some very serious questions about whether indeed it is the best course of action for all of us with respect to the ever-increasing demands on our limited generating capacity right now.

When we talk about the future for Ontario, and of course we dealt with this at length during the select committee hearings, my colleague and I in my party have suggested a couple of things. One of them, of course, is the banking of environmental approvals. We think that is an appropriate way

to go. Other members of the committee did not share that view, although I think on the government side there was not as rigid a response, if you will, as there was from the official opposition members, who did have some degree of difficulty with that proposal.

We think it is an appropriate way to go, because the government has been delaying and waffling on this very important decision for much too long. We could find ourselves in crisis in this province in terms of ability to meet energy demand in the very near future.

We saw the utility meeting its peak last summer during a very hot summer, which is indeed unusual. Hydro traditionally reaches peak levels in the winter months. I think it was the first time, in memory in any event, that we reached peak in the summer. If we face that kind of very hot summer in 1989 we could find power dips, brownouts and those kinds of things occurring across this province.

We have had projections in terms of the impact that free trade is going to have on consumption in this province, and the projections are significant indeed. The minister and his cabinet colleagues are waffling on this decision. We think one way that perhaps is appropriate is to look at the concept of banking environmental approvals.

We in our party also think it may be appropriate to review the idea of building for export. I think members of the governing party who sat on that committee were not totally unreceptive to that proposal as well. We think this is something that could indeed be appropriate: building for export. We have the facility in place, and as domestic consumption needs increase we will have the facility there. It is simply a matter of adjusting contracts or what has to be done in terms of modifying export levels to meet increasing domestic demand.

Those are just a few points I wanted to put on record. I feel quite strongly about this. I do have a lot of respect for the minister. I think he is indeed committed to doing the right things, but he is in a tough position in terms of seniority and know-how around this place. We know he has a tough challenge ahead of him, but I want to indicate that the minister knows that when he does the right things he is going to have us standing there with him, giving him our support. I think those right decisions, those right moves on his part and the part of the government, are still waiting out there to be made. We are not enthusiastic about what he has done up to this point.

We really feel that we could be facing a crisis situation in the very near future. I hope quite

sincerely that the minister and his government are not going to play politics with this issue and will not try to delay this very important decision until we get past the next provincial election. Let us get on with the job that is important to all of us as Ontarians.

**Mr Charlton:** It is with some pleasure, but a pleasure that is modified by the concerns that were expressed by my colleague, that I rise to speak on Bill 204. I say that much in the same vein as I suggested last week in our debate on Bill 10 that I had a very heavy feeling of *déjà vu*. In this case we see the government taking what appears to be a very progressive step at the same time as it denies itself the tools to make that progressive step a reality in practice.

**Mr Black:** Not necessarily.

**Mr Charlton:** It is not a question of "not necessarily." It is a question that my colleagues and the member's colleagues on the select committee on energy told the minister clearly what he had to do, and he has not done it. I will go through some of that for the member, and perhaps he can learn something this afternoon instead of making empty comments here in the House out of turn.

But just to follow up on the comments that were made by the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr Runciman), I want to say to the minister (Mr Wong) that I believe that the minister sincerely wants to move forward, in terms of controlling Ontario Hydro, ultimately, making it publicly accountable and leading Ontario into a sane, practical and useful energy future.

1610

Unfortunately, the minister has demonstrated in his opening statement here today and the statement which he read when he introduced this piece of legislation in January—again, as the member for Leeds-Grenville has suggested—either that he does not have enough seniority to get everything he needs through the cabinet, or that he has a lack of understanding of what is really required to get the job done.

I want to tell the minister right at the outset that although we are going to support this bill, the bill does not do what the minister has told this House it will do. The bill gives the minister the authority to do the things that he says he wants to do, but the bill does not give him the ability to do them, and they are two distinctly different things. It is very easy to have the authority to do something, but if you do not have the knowledge, the wherewithal and the tools to do it, then the authority means nothing by itself.

I would like to take the minister—because he was not the minister at the time that the select committee on energy did considerable work on this matter—through a little bit of a discussion which my colleague the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mrs Grier) started in the select committee report of July 1986. The recommendations in that report were made up of three parts, actually four parts, if you count the recommendations on Darlington itself as separate recommendations. The three parts of the package for the future were the amendments to the Power Corporation Act which the minister has brought forward here now, the amendments to the Ontario Energy Corporation Act which we do not have before us and recommendations on other government action which have not yet occurred.

That three-part package which was recommended by the select committee was not separable. Each part of the package is dependent on the other in order for any one of the parts to work, and that is what the minister seems not to understand, having brought forward one third of that package.

I would like to address that in somewhat more specific terms. Last December we debated a bill of mine here in the House, a private member's bill that dealt with part 2 of the package that I have just described. It dealt with amendments to the Ontario Energy Corporation Act. Although that private member's bill was not as specific as some of us would like it to have been—there are those of us around here who understand the private members' process and the fact that private members cannot move bills which clearly establish the expenditure of public funds, that this a no-no and the Speaker well knows that—but the bill that I introduced here in the House set the context in which we could have built part 2 of the package.

I am going to read some of the minister's comments back to him so that perhaps we, and he, can start to understand why these amendments here in Bill 204, although supportable, mean absolutely nothing on their own. They give an authority; they do not give an ability to deliver.

The minister says on the first page of his statement today, regarding: "this opportunity to remind members of the intent of this legislation."

"In the throne speech of November 1987 this government made a commitment to review the Power Corporation Act in order to ensure that Ontario Hydro is in a position to be more responsive to government policies and public priorities."

First of all, as my colleague the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore has already said, this government has not clearly initiated policies for Ontario Hydro. Further, they do not have the capability in the Ministry of Energy of generating those substantive policies which are required to build a sane energy future for Ontario.

What makes matters even worse is that this year, as a result of the budget which we just heard read two weeks ago, those sections of the Ministry of Energy that are responsible for looking at those alternative areas which are the part of the debate yet unanswered have been reduced. The Ministry of Energy's budget has been cut. In areas in which the ministry's performance was already seriously inadequate we had further budget cuts, so that the minister has reduced his ability to deliver and to assess.

I want to come to this question of "assess." The minister said in his opening remarks today that the ministry would be "assessing targets for conservation and parallel generation" and Hydro's performance in achieving those targets. Presently, the ministry has neither the ability to know whether the targets are good targets in the first place nor any ability to assess Ontario Hydro's performance in achieving those targets. On what basis is the Minister of Energy going to assess either the targets that are established in the first place or the performance in achieving those targets?

I can tell members right now on what basis. They are going to make those assessments based on the reports that come out of Hydro itself, which is precisely the problem that our select committee had in 1986, precisely the problem the select committee had in 1981, in 1980, in 1979, in 1978 and in 1977, for the entire five years that the original select committee sat, for the full year that the second select committee sat and for the three quarters of a year that the third select committee sat.

For as long as the base of information is internal in the corporation known as Ontario Hydro without any independent ability to cross-examine, to question and to do alternative analysis, the minister will have no ability to deliver on his comment today that the ministry will assess the performance on achieving targets.

The minister said in his opening statement today that Hydro should "leave no stone unturned to comply with government policy." How is the Minister of Energy is going to assess whether or not Ontario Hydro has left no stone unturned in its efforts to comply with government policy?

Even if, and it has not yet, the Ministry of Energy at some point is able to develop some sane, coherent, electrical energy policy and send that policy off to Hydro, and I question its ability to do that in the first place, but even if it accomplishes that initial task of developing the policy, how is it going to assess whether or not Hydro has left no stone unturned in its efforts to comply with the policy? Because the only documentation it will have, the only information the ministry will have, will be whatever Hydro sends back to it.

One of the things that all of us who sat on the select committee last fall and into this January, when we finally tabled our report, all of us who sat on the select committee in 1986 and all of us who sat on the select committee in 1985 and all of those before us who sat on the select committee from 1977 until 1981 will all, every one to a man and a woman, tell the Minister of Energy that the biggest single difficulty those select committees had and still have, right up until the most recent report in January of this year, was the inability to find any other legitimate, well documented source of information with which to evaluate and assess that which was being provided by Ontario Hydro. The minister has set up no mechanism along with Bill 204 to accomplish that.

#### 1620

The second part of the package to which I refer, the amendments to the Ontario Energy Board Act, which were referred to by my colleague the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, are essential if the minister wants to be able to take the authority he has given unto himself and his ministry in these amendments and do anything useful with it.

Somebody has to be able to take Ontario Hydro's current performance and Ontario Hydro's proposed direction for the future and assess its validity, both in terms of performance; that is past, and potential; that is future. The select committee recommended that the Ontario Energy Board be granted the authority to do that. The Ontario Energy Board has already developed a significant body of expertise internally in terms of dealing with Ontario Hydro.

In an area of expanded jurisdiction like this, they would have to develop some additional expertise that they do not now have. But that process has to begin so that, in fact, there is a regulatory process in place to assess for the minister questions of performance, because his ministry does not have that capability, on the one hand, nor should it have, on the other hand.

The Ontario Energy Board process, as the select committee recommended, is a public process with an opportunity for intervention, with an opportunity for participation by Ontario Hydro, by any number of public interest groups and by the general public itself. The government should stand aside from that kind of a process and be in a position to objectively assess what comes out the end of that process in the way of recommendations after all the parties in question have been heard. That should be true as it relates to the setting of Ontario Hydro rates. That should be true in terms of Ontario Hydro's planning process for the future, as well.

Without that ability, all of the things that the minister has said to us today in his opening remarks are theoretically possible, but in practical terms, he will have no basis on which to deliver such things as what the minister commented on earlier today: "Ontario Hydro will give government all necessary information on a timely basis to ensure the province can make the best possible decisions about Ontario's energy future."

That is exactly what this whole debate today is about. How is it that the Minister of Energy is going to determine that what Ontario Hydro provides to the Minister of Energy is all of the information necessary for the ministry to make a timely decision to ensure that the province can make the best possible decisions about Ontario's energy future? The ministry does not have the ability to assess that capability. They have already told us that. It is on the record in the select committee.

The minister should in fact sit down and read some of the Hansards from the select committee and see the testimony of his own officials before that committee, where they openly admit that they do not have the capability of making those kinds of judgements.

Not only that, but if we do not have a vehicle for those other parties who are involved in the energy sector in this province—those interest groups, some of which are interested in doing private independent parallel generation, to which the minister has referred, some of which are interested in doing industrial cogeneration, where they are running an industrial plant already and they want to cogenerate and use waste heat which is presently just being consumed and blown out into our atmosphere and others who want to see serious progress made in the area of conservation—if we do not allow a forum where those issues can be debated and a neutral body come to some conclusion about their validity and

the extent of their validity, what ability will the ministry have to judge whether Ontario Hydro has maximized initiatives, as the ministry has said it wants Ontario Hydro to do, in each of those areas?

The third part of the package again has to do with what the minister has told us here in his opening statement today. "The government will play an active, ongoing role in assessing targets for conservation and parallel generation and in evaluating the effectiveness of the methods for obtaining these targets." That is a useful role for the ministry to play and that is exactly what the select committee said three years ago that the ministry should do.

But it is interesting—and I go back to what I said just a short while ago—how the minister did not seem to understand that these recommendations in the report of July 1986 were a package of recommendations that were interdependent. The amendments to the Power Corporation Act, the amendments to the Ontario Energy Board Act and the direction of specific other government actions were all interdependent on each other.

I would like to read into the record for members the specific other actions which the select committee recommended.

"Recommendation 10. The government should direct Ontario Hydro to initiate, as part of its resource plan, three large-scale technical and market demonstration programs for conservation, up to \$25 million each in each sector (residential, commercial and industrial)."

Three years ago the select committee recommended that database be developed by pilot programs. The Ministry of Energy has done nothing. Two and a half years after that report was tabled, we again had Ontario Hydro before the select committee on the question of its demand-supply planning strategy. The Speaker will recall, because he was a part of that committee for at least part of its hearings last fall, what Hydro came in and told us: "We have no market data. We don't know. Those studies have not been done."

The Ministry of Energy has not followed up part 3 of the package and the Ministry of Energy has not directed Ontario Hydro to follow up part 3 of the package either. If we do not know what is possible out there; if we have no demonstration project to clearly tell us that if we do this, if we provide this incentive or if we make this change in the building code or if we impose these standards on the appliance industry, or whatever the case happens to be; if we do not go out there and find out what the result of a particular action

is, how do we go about measuring Ontario Hydro's performance or anybody's performance at implementing conservation measures, or as the minister also says, parallel generation measures? How do we measure that if we do not do what everybody tells us we have to do in order to be able to measure that?

1630

We are standing here this afternoon in this House with one third of a three-part package that gives the minister authority, which is wonderful, but which does not give the minister the ability to use that authority in any kind of useful way.

Last December in this House, when we were debating my bill which dealt with part 2—my bill did not even deal with the third part either; it just dealt with part 2, the Ontario Energy Board part, which happens to be the most important part of the three-part package, but even it by itself will not solve the problem—the minister's parliamentary assistant, the member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr South), stood in his place in this Legislature and heaped all kinds of praise on the member for Stony Mountain, whoever that may be. If I read the record very carefully, though, I think he was referring to me, although my riding is Hamilton Mountain, not Stony Mountain.

The member for Frontenac-Addington stood in this House, along with his colleague the member for Oakville South (Mr Carrothers), and both of them said they would not support my bill because the Minister of Energy (Mr Wong) was dealing with the matters dealt with in my bill in a far more comprehensive way in a complete package involved in the ministry review.

Unfortunately, they were wrong. Somebody misinformed them because just six weeks after they defeated my bill in this House, the minister introduced Bill 204 and it is not a comprehensive package and it is not more comprehensive. It deals with an entirely different part of a package than my bill dealt with. If we had passed my bill, then we would in fact have in place two parts of the package now, instead of one part of the package before us, and then we could just get on with dealing with part 3 of the package and be almost all the way home.

But they stood in their places in this House and said they could not support my bill because it was part of an overall comprehensive review that was being done by the Minister of Energy and that he would be coming forward very shortly with this comprehensive package that covered the entire waterfront.

What do we get? We get a package of amendments to the Power Corporation Act that,

yes, are supportable, and yes, they head in the right direction, but they do not do what the minister tells this House they will do. They give the minister the authority to do what he says he wants to do. Unfortunately, they deny him the tools and the ability to deliver the goods.

There are a number of other items from the select committee report that I think we need to deal with here today, because they have a direct impact on this piece of legislation and they have a direct impact on what the minister tells us this piece of legislation is all about.

A few moments ago I read recommendation 10 and I am going to read it again because I want to combine it with recommendation 12 of the report so that perhaps, again, the minister can start to understand how these recommendations are interrelated.

Recommendation 10—this is the one the government has not done anything about yet—says, "The government should direct Ontario Hydro to initiate, as part of its resource plan, three large-scale technical and market demonstration programs for conservation, up to \$25 million each, in each sector (residential, commercial and industrial)."

Recommendation 12, which is directly associated with recommendation 10, says, "The Power Corporation Act should be amended to allow Ontario Hydro to engage in the full range of options for promoting conservation."

Recommendation 12 is part of what we have covered in Bill 204. It is beyond me and beyond anybody I know of with any technical expertise in the energy area to know what recommendation 12 means in the absence of recommendation 10, because it is part of this bill.

Recommendation 12 states, and I repeat, "The Power Corporation Act should be amended to allow Ontario Hydro to engage in the full range of options for promoting conservation." The minister has done that in the bill. He has said to Ontario Hydro: "We are amending the Power Corporation Act so that Ontario Hydro can pursue a full range of conservation options. No more limits on your ability to pursue conservation, Ontario Hydro."

What has Ontario Hydro been telling the select committee on energy? Ontario Hydro has been telling the committee and the minister that it has already determined what the maximum range of conservation potential in Ontario is and that it is already in its resource plan. The minister has said that he does not agree, that he does not believe that is all there is.

What mechanism has he put in place to change Ontario Hydro's position? None. That is recommendation 10.

I use those two as a very specific example of what I have been trying to say here this afternoon, that the three parts of the package, which are the amendments to the Power Corporation Act, the amendments to the Ontario Energy Board Act and the direct government action set out in recommendation 10 are all required before any of this means anything. Not one of the parts works by itself and not one of the parts can work by itself.

The bill I introduced in this House last December and debated here in the House, a bill that was defeated, a bill that would have amended the Ontario Energy Board Act to allow the Ontario Energy Board to set Hydro rates in Ontario and to look into matters related to planning and conservation, would have allowed for the public hearing process, for the input of all parties and would have allowed the Ontario Energy Board to assess what Hydro was saying over and against some other expertise, and then to make a recommendation to the government about Ontario Hydro's performance in the areas the minister has set out in his statement this afternoon as being areas of concern.

Unfortunately, that part by itself would not have accomplished anything without the changes that are here today in Bill 204, because the minister then would not have had the authority to do anything with the OEB recommendations. Even with Bill 204 in place, and even if I reintroduce my bill this year and we pass it this time, or the minister at some point comes in with his own amendments to the Ontario Energy Board Act, amendments that follow reasonably closely the recommendations of the select committee from 1986, neither will mean very much of anything if we do not do the work that has to be done to identify what the real possibilities are out there in Ontario.

I want to describe a couple of things to members that were brought to the select committee as evidence. Unfortunately, I cannot go into a lot of detail, although if there are any members who would be interested in pursuing these matters further, I can provide them with some serious and good documentation that was provided to us from California and the northwestern United States, in terms of both cogeneration initiatives in California and conservation initiatives in the northwest.

My colleague the member for Durham East will recall some of that testimony in 1986. We

had his colleague the member for Leeds-Grenville making reference earlier this afternoon to banking of approvals. Because of the possibility of a dire energy future if demand increases were just somewhat slightly higher than Hydro was currently projecting and we ended up with brownouts in the late 1990s, etc., if we had environmental assessment approvals in the bank, and those kinds of things, then we could build plants really quick.

**1640**

I would like to refresh the memories of some members in terms of some other kinds of banking—perhaps this will be somewhat instructive for the minister as well—in terms of demand management, conservation and industrial co-generation.

Some years ago, in the state of California they decided to make serious moves, both in terms of industrial cogeneration of electricity and private or parallel generation of electricity. They set a buy-back rate or a rate at which the utility pays private generators, at a level that was comparable with their own real avoided cost; in other words, the cost of building the next generation facility if they were to build it themselves.

When they did that, what they found, in a state where there had been little or no industrial cogeneration prior to that and little or no private generation prior to that, was that they had such a flood that after two years of the program, they had to close the door. They had more power than they could possibly use and they had to cut off the program and stop the guarantees that were in fact in place.

Mr Speaker, I think you understand what the concept of that is. Once you identify what it is you have to do to make those things happen, what it is you have to offer to get industrial cogeneration put in place, or what it is you have to offer to have private entrepreneurs start up small parallel generating stations, whether they be small hydraulic stations on some of the small rivers and streams in this province or whether they be combined cycle gas or any number of other potential alternatives, once you identify where in the curve of price you can turn the switch and have that come on stream in fairly significant quantities, you have in fact got a huge bank of power, even if you have to turn off the switch temporarily because you got offers for more than you needed right now. You know where that switch is. In fact, you have banked power, which is far better to have in the bank, actual power that you can turn on fairly quickly, because it does not take 15 years to build like Darlington 2 will take.

We can look at the conservation experiments that were done by the Northwest Power Planning Council, which covers the four northwestern states in the United States under the auspices of Bonneville Power, which is a federally organized power corporation that serves those four northwestern states, a power corporation that is regulated by the Northwest Power Planning Council. They decided to find out in the case of conservation just what was real, what was out there and what they would have to do to bring it on stream when they required it. They did not require it right at the moment, but they saw the potential for the future and they decided they were going to be smart enough to do some long-range planning.

They went in and did pilot projects. The most predominant of those was the Hood River experiment where they went in as a utility and retrofitted everything in the county: farm houses, regular residential homes, small commercial buildings, gas stations. Whatever was in that county, they did it, and the utility paid the cost of all those conservation measures that were put in place.

Then they went into a five-year monitoring program to find out what was real in terms of permanent conservation and what was just temporary. In other words, how much would you get the first year and did it decline after an initial period of glee and new-found savings by the people in a community?

As I said, this pilot project on conservation in Hood River was done not because the Northwest Power Planning Council needed that power right then and there. They did not and they still do not today, but they know what it is they have to do to get how much conservation in place. They know what they have to spend and they know what it costs in terms of capital and operating dollars to keep it in place. They have gone out and identified the market and the ability to deliver that market. They have another bank sitting there, not a bank of advance approvals on the environment but a bank of conservation power that the Northwest Power Planning Council can call on any time it makes the decision or finds the need to go after that power.

The interesting thing in all of this, in the two examples I have used, the co-generation-parallel generation example from California and the conservation example from Hood River, is that in both cases both the capital costs involved and the operating costs, or the delivered cost of power to customers, was far less than the utility could otherwise provide on its own initiative by

building new generation facilities. There have been none built in either jurisdiction, nor will there be any new generation facilities built in either of those jurisdictions in the foreseeable future.

As a matter of fact, as a result of the work that has been done in those jurisdictions, many of us had the pleasure of being able to read just very recently in the papers about the vote in California to close down a nuclear plant because they do not need it, not because it is unsafe—it may be because it is sitting on a fault line, but it is not being closed down because it is unsafe. It is being closed down because they do not need it and it has been somewhat plagued with operational problems.

The people of California have just said: "This thing is a boondoggle. We have better things we can do, like industrial co-generation. Let's shut down the damned plant and get on with the job of energy conservation, better and more efficient utilization of the energy that is already being used here in the state of California."

This is a very important juncture we are at here in this Legislature. Bill 204, as I have said a number of times this afternoon, and I am going to keep repeating it until it gets through somebody's head, is supportable. It is a small step in the right direction, but it means nothing by itself.

If we do not move on the other two areas I have talked about here this afternoon, if we do not deal with the question of regulating Hydro and breaking the information domination that has been imposed by Ontario Hydro ever since Ontario Hydro's inception, and if we do not get on with breaking this cycle of, "Yes, there is enough conservation in Ontario; no, there is not," without any factual way to measure that, if we do not do all three things, the amendments here in Bill 204 will mean nothing.

#### 1650

There are a couple of things that—I want to move away from the 1986 select committee report, because that is three years old. I and my colleague the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore used those recommendations today to point out that it has been three years and the minister is only now proceeding with one third of that package. The other two thirds remain untouched and unresolved.

I want to move on into the select committee's report from January of this year, to try to give the members of the House here and perhaps even the minister some kind of indication of just how far behind the game he is and how critical it is that we get caught up to speed by the end of this year;

not next year for the Ontario Energy Board and not the year after for conservation studies, but this year. It is not happening.

I want to quickly read for members a recommendation that was tabled here in the House in January: "Recommendation 6: No new major Ontario Hydro supply options should be approved until the Ministry of Energy is satisfied that the uncertainty regarding the amount of demand management which can be achieved is reduced by means of effective market research and studies of implementation feasibility."

That is a recommendation which relates directly back to those other two recommendations from the 1986 report I read earlier, recommendations 10 and 12. Recommendation 6 is here in the select committee report of January 1989 precisely because nothing, or nothing significant, has been done. I should never say nothing has been done, because somebody has probably written some number down on some piece of paper somewhere and could claim that something has been done.

Nothing of significance has been done in terms of recommendations 10 and 12 in the 1986 select committee report. So the select committee this year felt it necessary to say, and say clearly, that, "No new major Ontario Hydro supply options should be approved until the Ministry of Energy is satisfied that the uncertainty regarding the amount of demand management which can be achieved is reduced by means of effective market research and studies of implementation feasibility."

What does that recommendation mean? I want to put it in as blunt terms as I can so that perhaps some of the members of this House, and specifically the minister, can start to understand what that recommendation means. That recommendation means, in terms of everything the minister has said to us here this afternoon about his ability to control Ontario Hydro, about our ability as a province to ensure that Hydro is living up to our expectations and our priorities—how did the minister put it in his opening remarks? It was right back on page 1: "In the throne speech of November 1987 this government made a commitment to review the Power Corporation Act in order to ensure that Ontario Hydro is in a position to be more responsive to government policies and public priorities."

How is this government going to set those policies and how is the public of this province going to set its priorities as long as it is living in a fog? That recommendation in the select committee report says that the minister cannot reason-

ably make a decision about the next power plant in this province until these studies are done. That is a select committee that spent six weeks cross-examining witnesses, none of which the minister has done and none of which his staff have done. This was a conclusion reached by the members of all three parties on that select committee, that the minister, the ministry and the government would be irresponsible to make a decision about the next major generation facility in this province until those studies have been completed.

They have not been done, and decisions are implied by the minister's statements in the press over the past number of weeks, statements which seem somewhat confused but are perhaps more open than some statements that have been made by this government in the past, statements about how "We are still in support of our nuclear power generation program." I would have thought, from the Hansards I have read and the statements I have seen in this Legislature prior to 1985, that for the Minister of Energy to be now calling it his government's program is quite a change of pace.

This recommendation in an all-party select committee report is a recommendation unanimously supported by all the members of that committee after careful consideration, and it says that this government cannot reasonably make that decision if it keeps avoiding doing the work that has to be done. That is what has been happening up until this point. The government and Ontario Hydro have been avoiding doing the work that everybody, including Hydro, says has to be done.

It is not just a question of quoting recommendations from 1986 that have not been lived up to. The recommendations from just four months ago say this government has failed to do what needs to be done to accomplish what the minister is telling us here this afternoon he wants to accomplish with this bill and he cannot accomplish with this bill alone.

In wrapping up my comments this afternoon, perhaps the minister has begun to understand now why we feel it is necessary that this bill go out for hearings, so that once again we can have a shot at getting clearly on the record all of what has to be done to make a system work for the future in terms of moving towards a sane electrical energy future in Ontario.

What are those things specifically in a regulatory way at the Ontario Energy Board or, heaven forbid, if we are not happy with the OEB, some other new agency to regulate Ontario Hydro in terms of its planning process and its

performance in terms of reaching targets, reasonable targets for conservation, parallel generation, cogeneration, and as well getting on with the study of identifying a measure by which we can assess that performance in some kind of a factual way?

If somebody does not do the studies that indicate to this Legislature, to its committees and to the minister and the Ministry of Energy what is really possible in terms of bringing conservation on stream, bringing industrial cogeneration on stream, bringing parallel generation or independent private generation on stream and bringing any number of other alternatives on stream; if we do not identify what actions will cause what to happen, what the expenditure in the residential sector of \$100 million will cause to happen versus what the expenditure of \$100 million on another generation facility will cause to happen; if we do not identify those realities, then we will never, no matter what amendments to legislation we make, have the ability to measure, as the minister says, to assess Hydro's performance in those areas.

I have said that perhaps the Ministry of Energy does not have the ability to do a lot of that work itself. On the other hand, the minister and his ministry started a process some two years ago in terms of hiring consultants to do some specific studies for him, studies which were completed about a year and a half ago, studies which have never been utilized and studies which have never been followed up.

**1700**

We had one study, for example, the Marbeck study, which identified the technical potential in Ontario—and I repeat that, the technical potential in Ontario—for about 9,000 megawatts of conservation. That is equivalent to two and two thirds full-size Darlington plants. What does that mean? Nobody knows for sure, except that theoretically that technical potential of 9,000 megawatts is available at five cents a kilowatt-hour or less, which is the average price of power in Ontario.

But has the minister, has Hydro or has anybody done the implementation studies to see what capital expenditures would be required on the part of government or what capital expenditures on the part of Ontario Hydro would be required to bring those 9,000 megawatts of power into the system?

I should point out that those 9,000 megawatts are not 9,000 megawatts; they are probably only 6,500 megawatts because Ontario Hydro already has 2,500 megawatts of incentive-driven conser-

vation in its plan. But it is true that 9,000 megawatts of incentive-driven conservation is far different from 2,500 megawatts of incentive-driven conservation, which is presently set out in Hydro's planning process.

It is high time that the minister and all of us in Ontario, those who are interested in electrical energy matters and the future direction of Ontario Hydro, had some kind of a realistic understanding of how much of that 6,500 additional megawatts that Hydro says it cannot get we really could get with incentive programs that are designed to target specific areas, as set out in the Marbeck study.

The minister has the information base. If he made the commitment tomorrow to do the follow-up studies, they would be done before the end of 1989 and be in his hands in black and white. If he made the commitment tomorrow to proceed with the amendments to the Ontario Energy Board Act that I have suggested, which make up part 2 of the package, we could have them in place before the end of 1989, and all of the three parts of the package that are required to make this whole thing work will be in place and ready to operate.

I think back to a lunch that I had with the minister about a month ago or perhaps six weeks ago, when the minister told me he absolutely had to have this legislation, Bill 204, in place before the end of the year. I guess what I am trying to say to the minister is that he will have Bill 204 in place before the end of 1989, but in terms of accomplishing the goals that he set out in his opening statement today, it will not matter one whit by itself. Without the other two parts of the package that were carefully defined by the select committee in 1986, the minister will be no further ahead in achieving the goals as they have been set out.

**Mr Wildman:** I just wanted to commend my friend the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr Charlton) on a most reasonable, very thoughtful, very positive presentation. I hope that the minister will take a serious approach to the comments made by my friend the member for Hamilton Mountain and that he will indeed include and agree to the amendments that were proposed.

If so, as I am sure my friend would agree, not only would he have our reluctant support for this legislation but our enthusiastic support. I am sure the minister would want that and he would also want to ensure that not only is Ontario Hydro a public corporation that is owned by the people of

Ontario, but one that is really under the control of the government and the people of Ontario.

**Mr Charlton:** I want to thank my colleague the member for Algoma (Mr Wildman) and to assure the minister that he is correct. If the minister were to proceed in all the ways I suggested this afternoon, he would have the very enthusiastic support of this entire caucus.

**Mr Cureatz:** I can only say to my friend and colleague the member for Hamilton Mountain that he should be so lucky as to have one of his colleagues congratulate him on such a wonderful speech. I will be waiting with great anticipation to see if any of my own caucus will be standing up to congratulate me. I somehow doubt that that will be forthcoming.

Even the learned government House leader, who should know better than to attempt to change the rules of this assembly without the democratic approach, I know will probably not stand up to give me great accolades about the remarks that I am about to make on Bill 204.

Before we get into that particular aspect, I only have to mention to Vince Borg, who is always concerned about the length of my tie, that I hope, if he is tuning in today, it is in the appropriate position, because he says continually that first, I have too heavy a beard and should wear makeup, which I will not do, and second, "The least you can do is fix your tie," so Vince, wherever you are, I hope I have met with your appropriate suggestions.

Of course, the problem also arises about Ralph Benmurgie. All of the members are saying, "Who is Ralph Benmurgie?" If any of them listen to Prime Time on CBC radio at eight o'clock, they will know that he unfortunately had to leave. Of course, we all know the reason he had to leave was because of this nasty budget that was brought forward by the Treasurer (Mr R. F. Nixon). It increased the taxes so dramatically that Ralph had to leave Prime Time and go to Midday to make more money to pay the taxes. We are awfully sorry we will not have the opportunity of tuning in and listening to Ralph any more, but we will be sending over my comments about why it was so sad that he had to leave Prime Time.

It is just wonderful that we have so many pages in attendance here. I have it on good authority that actually the real workers in this place are the pages right here in the chamber, along with the support staff, Ms Trudy Niezen, the Sergeant at Arms and all the other people who we do not see but who really make this place run. It has only taken me about 13 years to come to that

conclusion, but I am a Conservative. We learn slowly, as has been pointed out to us.

**Mr Black:** It costs us \$130,000 a day to run this place. You guys should be in here more often.

**Mr Cureatz:** The member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay, who is going to be gone in the next election, stood up and read a petition in this chamber and he should be lucky to do so, because his House leader has introduced legislation that will limit the opportunity for reading petitions. It wants to put a gag on democracy, this nasty, big, arrogant Liberal government, and the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay has the nerve to be speaking up like this.

I am embarrassed for him. He is not even embarrassed for himself. It is absolutely astounding, these people with no parliamentary tradition. For goodness sake, I can hardly wait until he stands up and talks about Bill 204, as I am about to do in a few minutes.

I should probably remind everybody about why we are here on this bill. We have to do a little historical synopsis about Bill 204.

1710

**Mr Black:** Why is your voice cracking?

**Mr Cureatz:** It is cracking because I just cannot believe that the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay—who represents a fine area of Ontario which has a great tradition in terms of the kinds of representatives they send to us; and they send someone of his calibre—who should know better, with his educational experience, came out with the report on drug abuse, etc, and then blindly allowed the government House leader to come in with this crazy nonsense about amending the House rules without any kind of negotiations with all parties.

When he gets himself two or three more terms under his belt, when he is finally serving in opposition, then he will learn a lesson about House rules and the true nature of the parliamentary process, as established from 1064, from William the Conqueror and all that.

**Mr Wildman:** It's 1066, not 1064.

**Mr Cureatz:** Oh, thank you; 1066.

**Mr Wildman:** The battle of Hastings.

**Mr Cureatz:** Right. Thank you. What was 1064?

Anyway, I want to get to the minister. He does not know how lucky he is to be newly elected—I know he was a high roller down on Bay Street in the stock market, making in the three-figure numbers. I remember reading the little synopsis and interview. I never could understand what all

that meant, but I guess it means around \$200,000 or \$300,000 a year.

For all the people at home, to refresh your memory, we are talking about Bill 204, which at the best of times is pretty dry stuff, and as I look about the gallery I see one or two guards way up there listening with their arms folded with great anticipation, trying to figure out how this piece of legislation is going to affect them.

I say to the people, to you at home, how is it going to affect you? It is a little difficult to say in dollars and cents the direct effect this is going to have on the people of Ontario, but do you know what? It is going to have an overall effect.

My friend and colleague the member for Hamilton Mountain in his own way certainly indicated his thoughts and concerns about the legislation. He has brought forward, as has his colleague the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, some indications about the various select committees and that those particular select committees are interdependent. I want to tell the minister, they sure are interdependent. They are not independent; they are interdependent.

The minister is awfully fortunate coming in from the private sector and, lo and behold, boom, he is right in with the executive council. I know he is not one of the four who really run this show. Goodness knows, they are scratching their heads today; there is no doubt about it. We have had a pretty rough week of what some would call mudslinging, which from time to time I myself cringe at. However, the powers that be have carried on and sloughed on in terms of some of their concerns about other issues.

My concern on Bill 204 is that the minister is very fortunate to now be sitting in the executive council to have some input in terms of energy policies in Ontario, and more particularly this piece of legislation. However, it grieves me to no end that he has not had the opportunity of slugging it out in the back benches, which I have had to do over the past number of years, all thanks to Bill Davis. I will say this, though, Bill and John Tory certainly would not have got themselves in the heck of a mess that this present administration has got itself into. Notwithstanding the complaints I have about Bill and John personally, I will tell members that they ran the show in terms of ethics a heck of a lot better than what we are seeing around here presently.

**Mr Callahan:** Stay on the high side, Sam.

**Mr Cureatz:** The member from Brampton is not even in his seat, so a lot he can say. He should go over to his seat and then he can start heckling all he wants.

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr Cureatz:** No one will pay any attention, because he has nothing valid to say anyway, as we have noticed in his questions at question period.

I want to go back to the new public policy for direction of Ontario Hydro. I will do my best to cover some aspects of the previous reports to give the minister an attempt at understanding, and for anyone who is listening and is tuning in, as I say, it is pretty dry stuff but it has to be done, because I want to make sure that the minister appreciates all the previous hard work that has really gone into the final culmination of his proposed legislation.

It has been tough slugging for over 10 years on the various committees of energy, and I want to say, of course, that is one of the concerns that we have—I will tell him that at the first, I want to conclude with that, but in case I am rushed I will keep watching the clock—that we definitely want this legislation to go to committee and particularly to the committee on energy.

Notwithstanding that the chairman of the past select committee on energy in this session, the member for Oakville South, is a member of the government party, I think he handled the committee in a very fair manner. If I have any complaint, he sure wanted to get all the information in one day at a time; often it was 10 o'clock in the morning to six or seven o'clock in the evening, and after 4:30 pm to five o'clock, there is only so much that one's bottom can handle in terms of information coming forth.

**An hon member:** That's why you are sitting.

**Mr Cureatz:** That is why I am standing; I do not have to sit down and speak. Now that you have given me encouragement, I think I will go on for the rest of the afternoon.

However, I can assure the minister, if the powers that be have anything to do with such things, I would recommend highly that the member for Oakville South should continue on with the select committee on energy and the legislation, Bill 204, should make its way there in the summertime. I understand that the various committees are all clogged up with the various pieces of legislation, and that would be the appropriate place.

But I want to stress to the minister—because I too have had the opportunity of meeting with him—and to the people of Ontario, he is a most congenial minister and always receptive to ideas, information and openness; he has always been responsive to any areas of concern I have had. I

have not been overly happy about the manner in which he has answered my questions, but of course that is a matter of difference in terms of what I am looking for and what he is giving to me, and if I have some time, I will cover those areas of inquiries also in relation to Bill 204.

Moving right along with great rapidity, I want to refer all members' attention to the fact that way back in June 1976 was the first minority government in an awfully long time, under then-Premier Bill Davis. Donald MacDonald, then leader of the New Democratic Party, had expressed concerns, along with his party, for a long time—I suppose, so did the Liberal Party—about the various aspects of Ontario Hydro.

As a result, we had the select committee inquiry into Hydro's proposed bulk power rates, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, first session, 30th Parliament. This is where the groundwork is laid, and boy, if the members can believe it, 13 years afterwards we are getting into Bill 204 and the Power Corporation Act. The member for Niagara South (Mr Haggerty), the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr Eakins), and the former member for Halton-Burlington, Julian Reed, were the Liberal members of that committee.

I want to just refer for a moment to the opening paragraph of that report, summary and recommendations: "The select committee investigating Ontario Hydro was established by the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario to consider a proposed increase of some 25 per cent in the price of bulk or wholesale electric power by Ontario Hydro."

Continuing on: "Ontario Hydro's system expansion plan required close scrutiny by the Legislature because, over time, the most significant impact on hydro rates results from its plans to spend over \$30 billion in the next decade on the expansion of generation and transmission facilities."

Of course, if we cast our minds from 1976 all the way to now, we can take a look at some of those funds that were expended. One area was the Darlington generating station, of which I have been supportive in my community of Durham East in the town of Newcastle, just south of what we call the former town of Bowmanville; not to mention what was then called the Solandt commission which, when I was first elected, investigated the areas with the transmission lines; of course, in the old days I used to call them hydro lines. I was reprimanded by Hydro officials; they are not called hydro lines, they are called transmission lines.

In any event, the Solandt commission came forward, after an in-depth investigation and public hearings, with the location of a major east-west transmission corridor, which resulted, interestingly enough, in a swath three hundred yards wide through my riding, from where Darlington is now, making its way eastward eventually to Wesleyville, which was closed down, and over to Bath and Lennox, and then westward up to, I think it is called, the Cherry Hill distribution centre.

The report continued and the committee recommended that "the Ontario government develop and clearly articulate government policy towards Ontario Hydro." That was way back in 1976 and there was a minority government in those days.

I want to point out to the minister that the Power Corporation Act and Bill 204 are really nothing that enlightening in terms of what all members of the assembly had the opportunity of discussing, and certainly those particular members when the first select committee on energy under Donald MacDonald was first established.

#### 1720

I, of course, was not elected in 1975. I came in 1977, so I was not right there at the first and I also wanted to refresh my own memory on where the select committee on energy continues to say, "Ontario Hydro develop an econometric forecasting model that will account for all quantifiable variables that can be anticipated to have a significant impact on the future demand for electric power."

You would almost think that was the member for Hamilton Mountain speaking. I would not call him one of the most flamboyant speakers around here, although it has been said to me that the more flamboyant you are, the less you say. We will let that remain for other people to judge.

If there is one thing I have learned from the member for Hamilton Mountain, sitting and listening to him on the energy committee, it is that he sure does his homework. One area of concern he continually hammers away at is the aspect of a forecasting model. I think it is safe to say that he and I do have some discrepancies over the amount of electricity Ontario requires and the amount that can be saved through demand-supply management. In any event, that debate will be for another time.

This particular committee carried on and said, "Ontario Hydro's current load forecast be accepted as the basis for anticipating future demand, given no significant changes in government policy."

The thing I have learned from the demand requirements of Ontario is that it is pretty tough to look into the crystal ball. I suppose that is why Bill 204 actually has a lot to say and yet it has nothing to say. It has a lot to say in the aspect that government, in terms of the executive council—I do not know if that means the caucus or the back bench is going to have any input in terms of Ontario Hydro—has a lot to say because in theory I suppose it is going to be able to have a hands-on approach.

I do not know exactly how Ontario Hydro feels about the legislation. I think that is why it would be worth while to get this bill off into the select committee and let's have some Hydro officials come forth.

I know it is going to be pretty tough for them to be straightforward with us. This government is running the show now. As for Ontario Hydro, Mr Franklin, Lorne McConnell and all the other underlings, are they going to come forward and say: "You know what? We do not like this bill, because we have enjoyed having the say in various aspects of supplying electricity to Ontario and now this means the government, through legislation, is going to have direct intervention." That is where the bill has a lot to say.

On the other hand, as some of my learned lawyer colleagues would say, it has nothing to say, because what will the government actually say? I guess this is a concern of my friend and colleague the member for Hamilton Mountain, who kept referring to the three-part program, and this is his third part, I guess, which is the part that I have to agree I think is missing. That is the direct government action.

What is the government going to do? The difficulty is that no matter what decision the government makes, it is not like deciding today and having the result tomorrow. As I have said time and time again in this assembly, we are running out of electricity and I do not think Bill 204 particularly addresses that.

It addresses this overall approach, this aspect of government intervention and more hands-on control for Ontario Hydro. My friend and colleague the member for Leeds-Grenville, who is of course a little more right-wing than I am on this issue, has expressed concerns about Ontario Hydro. But generally speaking, after years of serving on the committee, I have become a little comfortable with its approach.

I think they are and have been a little dogmatic and maybe a little narrow-minded in expanding their concerns in other areas, like in cogeneration and private development of small generation

facilities; and, of course, because they do not want to pay those private developers maybe the fair market value per kilowatt-hour, as opposed to what Ontario Hydro has actually been able to produce it for. If we look at Ontario Hydro and the multibillion-dollar investments it has, its mandate is to produce electricity at the lowest cost possible. I guess they feel a little uncomfortable. How can they go and start buying electricity at a greater cost than they are actually attempting to sell it at?

On the other hand, if it allows the production of electricity in certain areas of the province—maybe eastern Ontario, maybe northern Ontario—to help feed into the overall grid to such an extent that it would alleviate some of the major construction projects, it may be worthwhile. I have felt over the years that Hydro has been a little self-centred in terms of its approach to producing electricity.

That goes to the point of Bill 204 and is actually not saying much, because what is the government saying to Ontario Hydro in terms of policy? As I have indicated through my questions in question period, I am feeling very uncomfortable that the present administration is taking no stand whatsoever in terms of locating a new generating facility, the kind it is going to be and when the construction is going to start.

Of course, I will have to slip into my old speech in terms of the amount of electricity that is being produced in Ontario. More or less, it is a third, a third and a third, although nuclear power production of electricity is a little higher. But let us say that it is a third, a third and a third: one third thermal—that is, coal, gas and oil—a third hydro and a third nuclear.

As I indicated before, the Minister of Energy is quite adamant about any further big thermal plants. We have got one down in Wesleyville, sitting there in the riding of my colleague the member for Northumberland (Mrs Fawcett) which was started by—let me see, it might even have been Jim Taylor, one of my colleagues, a seatmate, a former Minister of Energy. But that was shut down by the chairman of Hydro at that time, whose name was Bob—I cannot think of his last name; I can picture him—because they decided at that time that the demand was not adequate enough for continued construction.

In any event, in those days, I have to admit, the concern of acid rain was not as great as it is now. So the government has got itself a problem, although I indicated in my question yesterday about anticipating and using low-sulphur western coal in conjunction with what the United States

has announced through President George Bush—bringing in western coal, utilization of our ports in Thunder Bay and the burning of that low-sulphur coal in Ontario for the generation of electricity. The Minister of Energy will not go for that.

I know my friends in the official opposition have always expressed concern about the development of other hydro projects. I want to refresh the Speaker's memory that the idea of Bill 204 is that the legislation allows the implementation of government policy. I actually do not see that government policy here, and I think that is what my friend and colleague the member for Hamilton Mountain was saying, that the third part of the three-part package is missing.

In terms of my friends and colleagues in the official opposition, although they have often expressed concerns about the availability of hydro sites in Ontario, I have some difficulty. The member for Algoma asked a question, I believe two or three weeks ago, as I was listening with great intensity, about the concerns and the possibility of a hydro site being located in northern Ontario, that the native communities were told nothing about it, that Ontario Hydro was up to its old tricks, although I was sympathetic with him on that one.

Jeepers creepers, you would think that after all these years Hydro would at least get its act together and call a meeting up there or speak to the local member or do something to get its public relations going. Not that I am out here to be whacking Ontario Hydro, but why not, we are the third party, what have we got to lose?

Talk about PR, have members seen this book? It is sent to all the members. Of course, I am the critic; I pay particular attention. Ontario Hydro Annual Report 1988. "In our 1988 annual report, we celebrate what we value most—the people in the province we serve." If you go through this, there are some fantastic pictures. Holy smokes, you would almost think they were not in the business of producing electricity; you would almost think they were in the business of photography. It is just great. You have got people standing in the wilderness thinking about electricity, people in the wintertime thinking about electricity, people buying vegetables thinking about electricity and people in industry working hard and thinking about electricity; it goes on and on. Jeepers, you would think they would have made their way up to northern Ontario and developed a public relations program not to get the local communities upset. They seemed to do that.

## 1730

In any event, I just want to give my colleagues over there in the official opposition—because I remember we are the third party now—a little whack. They talk about Hydro generating facilities, and yet as soon as there is any kind of movement there, then we have the hue and cry about the environmental impacts of Hydro facilities. I am sympathetic with them too, as far as that goes. What do we do? Do we flood thousands of acres of forest, put a dam in, start turning the turbines and then have a full environmental assessment hearing?

I know my colleagues would never want something like that to be exempted. We will be pressuring the Minister of the Environment (Mr Bradley) over a full environmental assessment hearing now that a decision has been made to put the new Durham-Toronto garbage site—they like to call it a landfill site, but it is a garbage site—in North Pickering. Conveniently and happily enough, it is not coming to my riding, Durham East, but we will be carrying on with the good fight.

The original report continued on with great enthusiasm—I know the minister would not want me particularly to read all the recommendations, and I want to get into one or two of the more recent reports—but let's take a look at this. In chapter III-2, it states: "Ontario Hydro develop a measure of the reliability of the generation system that includes all significant variables, and indicates with the highest possible degree of clarity and accuracy the frequency, duration and scale of probable outages."

I bring that to the minister's attention because, as I indicated on Bill 204, it says lots to the extent that the minister will be having a direct, hands-on control of Ontario Hydro, but it says nothing, because we do not know what that hands-on control is.

Way back in June 1976, here is a recommendation about these kinds of concerns about the duration and scale of probable outages. I want to tell the minister, I will be pursuing with him in various aspects of question period and statements the very idea about the lack of electricity that I think we are encountering here in Ontario. My friends and colleagues the member for Hamilton Mountain and the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore think differently.

There are some people in my own constituency, Durham East. There is Nuclear Awareness, I believe it is called, centred in Oshawa; it came out and let off some balloons over concerns about radiation. Rightly so. I have always been

pro-nuclear, but I have to say I got a little bit upset—I guess it was in the last session—when the first thing that happened when they started up the tritium plant was that they had a tritium leak. We heard time and time again: “Don’t worry. It’s all going to be safe. Everything is going to be wonderful.” Then lo and behold, bang, a tritium leak.

What I am saying is, I have moved my position to be a little more sceptical than I have been in the past. People like Suzanne Elston and John Veldhuis have approached me expressing their concerns about nuclear power and emphatically repeating what I hear from the official opposition; that is, through conservation, we should be able to preserve the number of megawatts required so that a large new plant of some sort or description need not be built. I still have some differences with them, and this is why I am bringing the report to the minister’s attention.

In my evaluation, sitting on the committee, as I have for going on to 13 years, as the committee has sat intermittently, it is my experience that, generally speaking, the trend for the need of electricity is increasing to such a degree that we are going to need a new major power source.

As I said previously, since the Hydro facilities are not as readily available as one would think, to the degree that we have at Niagara Falls, say, and if this present administration is quite adamant about acid rain, then in my estimation the amount of conservation is not as great as one would thin. Conservation also includes load-shifting, which I do not think is going to be the be-all and end-all. I do not think we have reached the full aspect of load-shifting. I can see everyone is listening with great anticipation to hear the meaning of load-shifting. We will get the Hydro officials to tell everyone particularly, but for any people at home who are doing an essay for grade 9 physics on electricity next year, load-shifting is an attempt to get the major consumers to start consuming electricity not at the peak hours but at off hours.

The only problem, I say to the minister, and I know my friend and colleague the member for Hamilton Mountain knows this, is that there also comes a breaking point where one has done all one’s load-shifting so there is no more to shift anyplace else. As a result, what does that mean? It means we need more electricity. That is where I am concerned about Bill 204. My friend from the official opposition indicated the lack of part three of the package; that is, what is the minister’s direction? That goes to what I feel, that we are going to be needing a new plant and

that we are going to need environmental assessment, if that can be determined to some degree. If it is at the Darlington B site, I think I would be willing to investigate an in-house evaluation, since the site has already been cleared. Do we and can we do environmental banking? I would suggest yes. When are we going to start construction of a new plant? I want to tell the minister that I am going to be working on him from now until the election, getting, if possible, the decision.

I say to the member for Hamilton Mountain that I know what they are going to do. He is no neophyte in politics either. They are going to try to postpone the decision on a major plant until after the election. Mind you, if I know my friends in the New Democratic Party, that election could very well be sooner rather than later, because the proposal by the government House leader on the rule changes in this assembly, if anything, is so sacrosanct to the New Democratic Party that they are going to go to the wall on that.

As former Deputy Speaker, I am a little more pliable. I know what it is like sitting in the chair. It is tough to keep awake, I say to the present Speaker, but I am doing the best I can to entertain him. I know what it is like, and this place is a give and take. We all yell and scream, but it was well put by, I think it was, Mr Walkom of the Toronto Star. Behind the door one tries to come up with a solution to one’s problems, but the kind of solution that has been brought forward by the House leader of this large Liberal government in terms of changing the rules is something that is very sacrosanct to the New Democratic Party. They are going to go to the wall on it. I have yet to feel that comfortable about going to the wall on it, but what if we suddenly had an election a little sooner than we all thought? Then the government will be off the hook and maybe it will not have to make that decision before the election if the election is upon us.

On the other hand, who knows what election will turn up? As I have said in the past, I say to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr Riddell), who I know is eating peanuts that were grown in Ontario, who knows what will happen? We have had minority governments here before, have we not? It just might be that there might be a Conservative minority government. Then we would be put in the position of making the decision.

If I have anything to do with it, I will be a little more instrumental in getting off my butt and making the decision, because when I sat in that chair, the Premier then, as official Leader of the

Opposition, continuously asked questions and concerns about the expansion of nuclear power. In my evaluation, although we can get Hansard back and it may indicate otherwise, he was against it. Now the government is in the position of maybe having to come out and suggest the building of another plant, either down in Darlington in my constituency of Durham East, in someplace up in the North Channel or, others have indicated, in eastern Ontario.

I do not want to bore members at great length on A New Public Policy Direction for Ontario Hydro: Final Report of the Select Committee of the Legislature Investigating Ontario Hydro, June 1976, because we want to go and move with great rapidity. I will not spend too much time because I have to confess to the Speaker it is not directly on point to Bill 204, but I am just mentioning in passing so the minister can have a kaleidoscope of the past investigations of the last 13 years, if members can believe it. I am getting so enthusiastic about it that I think we had better continue speaking about this bill maybe tomorrow, or whenever the House leaders can agree, so that I can cover the various aspects of the committee.

1740

On the Management of Nuclear Fuel Waste, of course, and goodness knows—let's take a look here at recommendation 10:

"The hearing process chosen must adhere to the following principles of: separate hearings to set guiding criteria and to assess specific proposals;—this is for the manner in which we are going to dispose of nuclear wastes—"fully public hearings in all affected regions; the availability of funding to ensure full public involvement; a hearing process and basis for decision that takes into account all the factors a community wishes to raise; final decision on the site by responsible governments on the recommendation of the regulatory body....

"The first task of the assigned regulatory authority should be to stimulate public discussion of overall criteria including the holding of a public hearing."

As my colleague the member for Hamilton Mountain indicated, all these reports are interdependent. This report, although one would think right away, the Management of Nuclear Fuel Waste, what does that have to do with Bill 204? It has to do with Bill 204 because the minister is giving himself the authority to have a hands-on control of Ontario Hydro, but we do not know what he is doing in terms of giving it direction. Do we look in terms of the minister's statement,

which I still want to get to, where he indicated that he would be entering into an agreement. If he does enter that agreement, does that have to do with nuclear power? If that is nuclear power, that should mean that we should go back—and listen, I am concerned about disposal of nuclear waste.

I had the opportunity—jeeppers, let me think back; it must have been about 1979 or 1980. We had some great times in those days. That was another minority government, 1977-81, and we toured a good aspect of Canada. We went to Whiteshell, Manitoba, and we went to Atikokan in the middle of February. Talk about an un-junket. Holy smokes, and did I get a cold that day. It took me the rest of the week to recover. What a wipeout.

We had a big public hearing in Atikokan about how they are doing test drills into a pluton. Then from there we went to Deep River, over to the House leader's home riding when he was just a humble little member like I was and now he is running the government. Boy, times have changed. We had another big public meeting there, only then it was the middle of summer, and boy, was it hot. I must have had heat stroke. In winter in the same committee I go and get a heck of a cold and then I suffer from heat stroke in Deep River.

It gets to the point about disposing of nuclear waste, and I am fully supportive that yes there should be an ongoing monitoring investigation. Maybe that is where, although my friend and colleague, the member for Hamilton Mountain, brought forward his private member's resolution in terms of the Ontario Energy Board, I do not think that we could sort of do a capture of the nuclear waste disposal under that board, but you never know. If not, it should be at least an ongoing aspect of investigation by a committee of this Legislature.

Time marches on. We have so much more to say. Mining, Milling and Refining of Uranium in Ontario, Final Report, December 1980. We had a great time. We went to Elliot Lake and we heard from union representatives, from miners, the staff working the mine, and from politicians. There was concern about—if I remember, Eddie Sargent—his riding I think has changed now, in any event—had concerns about the Hydro contract, but more importantly the tie-in with the development of industry in northern Ontario and Elliot Lake and the supply of uranium for the Candu reactor.

Again, I know the minister is scratching his head, but the point of it is that in terms of the decision-making process that he is giving himself

under the authority of Bill 204, he is putting off the inevitable and the inevitable is that he is going to have to build another nuclear plant. That is it. I tell the minister he should not dare to try—of course, he is going to do it anyway. I should not say that he should not dare. I know he is going to come back and tell me: “Oh no, we are going to do all these wonderful things. There is going to be conservation and cogeneration.” But I will say what my experience has been sitting on the very select committee on energy.

We had an all-day caucus, a three-day caucus up in Sudbury. I wrote to the minister about this, I believe, and I think I wrote to the chairman of Ontario Hydro, Mr Franklin, among others, and the major nickel producers up there. Falconbridge had indicated to me that they were getting so fed up with being on what was called uninterruptible power when their power was being interrupted that they decided it was cheaper to go on interruptible power. What would happen is they were supposed to have uninterruptible power, and the electricity is flowing into their plant—and do not forget, there are a lot of people working in those plants. We are not just talking about some big outfit. I get criticized about this all the time. I have said it in the past and I will say it until I finally leave or get defeated or something. As a Tory, I keep getting criticized: “Oh, you are defending big business.”

The president of General Motors has never knocked on doors on my behalf for canvassing and I do not remember the president of International Nickel or Falconbridge knocking on my door. I am not going to bat for the big corporations because what I am saying is that there are a heck of a lot of people working in those industries.

So they are supposed to be on uninterruptible power. I have a letter. I think I sent a copy of the letter to the minister. They are saying they are being interrupted so often that what is happening is that it is disrupting their whole process. It is costing them more money while they are being shut down waiting for the electricity to come back on, and of course, they are paying a higher premium for that uninterruptible power. They might as well be on interruptible power so that when those guys at Ontario Hydro shut down the power for some reason, at least they are not paying that high premium rate. They have entered into a contract over two or three years—I just forget the terms—and they are going to give notice, if they have not done it already, to get out of that uninterruptible power contract.

Do the members know what that tells me? It tells me that the major power users in Ontario are getting concerned.

Of course, we get in a mindset. We say, “Oh, those major power consumers, that has to be General Motors down in Oshawa,” which my friend and colleague the member for Oshawa (Mr Breaugh), the member for Durham Centre (Mr Furlong) and myself have the opportunity of representing. But as I indicated, there are thousands of men and women working in the various aspects of those industries, so when we are talking about the major power consumers of Ontario, we are not talking about those nasty big corporations, although sometimes I feel like it, but we are talking about the men and women who are employed there.

If that corporation is not getting enough electricity, it cannot be having the men and women working there to get their salaries. That is that aspect of concern that I have about Bill 204: Where is the government going?

How could I miss one of my favourite reports? As life carried on back in those heady days of 1985—let me see. I think this was before the minority government. The select committee on energy report on the Darlington nuclear station. No, I think this was minority government. We had lost the government. I see George Ashe there, my colleague from Durham West. We did a thorough investigation of Darlington, which of course is in my riding, and we came up with a few recommendations.

“The committee should undertake an independent review of the Ontario Hydro demand-supply options study backed by such expertise as may be required to illuminate specific and critical issues embodied in it.”

Happily enough, that was a continuation of the more recent reports from that select committee on Darlington.

We went further and said, “No further significant contracts for units 3 and 4 should be let for materials not required for construction during the next six months while the committee studies demand and supply options.”

As fate would have it, way back then, now four years later, the first two units of the plant will be coming on stream and 3 and 4 shortly thereafter.

But again, the tie-in with the various history aspects of these various committees is still trying to develop a strategy and overall direction for Ontario Hydro to ensure in some manner that we in Ontario are going to be having enough electricity.

As I indicated, I do not particularly see in Bill 204—because I know the Speaker is very concerned that I address my comments to it—I do not know; I do not see it here. I think that is indeed the part missing, part 3, as my friend and colleague the member for Hamilton Mountain indicated.

With great rapidity, we move right along to 3 July 1986, Select Committee on Energy—another select committee on energy—Final Report on Toward a Balanced Electricity System. Now we are getting into those areas where I know the official opposition has always expressed concerns, and goodness, we have a great many recommendations from that report, which led us into Report on Ontario Hydro Draft Demand/Supply Planning Strategy, Volume I, and Report on Ontario Hydro Draft Demand/Supply Planning Strategy, Volume II, all of which I spent all afternoon marking all the recommendations in.

See all the paper clips? See, all at home, all those paper clips? For you people who are operating the cameras up in the booth, do a little closeup. You know how much work that was? I have 11 minutes now; I have to do all those paper clips. We are not going to get to it, unfortunately.

But the committee did a lot of good work in terms of the concerns of demand-supply options and I do not think that work has necessarily been covered in Bill 204.

So let me, without any further ado, jump into some of the concerns. After doing all that work, it just breaks my heart, but maybe there will be another time. Let me jump into the minister's statement which he very kindly gave me a copy of, even though I went scurrying over to his staff and they conveniently forgot to get a copy. It makes you wonder what they get paid for.

**1750**

Of course, we all know the game; they did not have a copy because they did not want me to have one. So I stood up to embarrass the minister and asked if I could have a copy. What else was he going to say? Of course, then he would say, "Sure, you can have a copy," because he would not want to go on record to say that he would not give me a copy.

Interestingly enough, "It gives the government the authority to issue policy statements that Hydro shall respect in performing its corporate duties." As I indicated, as we have tried to give a synopsis with the various select committee of energy reports, it takes years. Holy smokes, I went back to 1975-76. The first report said, "Developing Strategies of the Need and Use of Electricity in Ontario." Now here we are in 1989,

13 years later, and the government is finally trying to get direct control of Hydro.

Yet I am saying to the minister that when he makes the decision, it is not going to happen tomorrow. These things take a long time. I have to say, I suppose, that there is a little bit of guesswork in all this. You have to look into the crystal ball. As of yet, I have not seen the guts from this government, in terms of electricity, to look into the crystal ball and make the decision on where the next major power plant is going to be built and when the electricity is going to be produced. It does not say that in Bill 204. I am going to be interested.

Hopefully, we can continue this debate so that we might hear some information from the Minister of Energy in terms of his strategy. But I am suspicious; I do not think we are going to hear it. If it were the Minister of Health (Mrs Caplan), holy smokes, she would be out every other day giving statements, sending money down to the university in London, coming to Oshawa, visiting with us all and having nice little talks with the district health council. She has guts. But I do not think this Minister of Energy has the wherewithal and the pull to go into cabinet and say, "Look, we need another major plant in Ontario."

Even if this legislation in Bill 204 gives him that authority, first, I do not think he is committed, and second, I do not think that when he looks into his crystal ball he really believes we need electricity. Yet I have been telling him about brownout possibilities. Last summer in Ontario, during the heat wave and last winter in February, to my understanding, the subway system almost shut down because of lack of electricity. The minister is wandering around, listening to his staff saying: "Oh no, the world's lovely. We're going to conserve all the thousands of megawatts. We still have a lot of electricity." He does not have it.

**Mr Cleary:** Try to be nice, Sam!

**Mr Cureatz:** I have nothing but the highest respect for my friend and colleague the member for Cornwall (Mr Cleary) and I will say nothing against him whatsoever.

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** Bravo, bravo. At least he finally said something of some significance.

**Mr Cureatz:** I say to the Minister of Health that someone says that about her from time to time when she makes her statements in the House, but I will not say that at all because you never know, I might want that Bowmanville hospital completed a little sooner than it is going at the moment.

"Legislative roadblocks in the areas of conservation...." You see, this is hyperbole. It is full of—like my speech, some would say. On page 5 it says, "Legislative roadblocks in the areas of conservation and parallel generation will be removed so that Hydro will be able to provide incentives for these initiatives."

That is not so easy. The minister just sort of throws that statement out, which under Bill 204 sort of gives him the authority to do that. I say to the House leader that he missed a great speech about the time we went down to Deep River and the Rolphoton plant. It was as hot as Hades down there. What a time. Does he remember that? His people were as mad as the devil at him. Did he want to shut it down or keep it open? They were mad at him for some reason, anyway.

**Hon Mr Conway:** Sammy, because to govern is to decide.

**Mr Cureatz:** We have seen the kinds of nasty decisions that come out of this nasty, big, arrogant Liberal government, like the institution of these House rules. And of all people, he, in the true parliamentary tradition and as the great Ontario historian that he purports to be, then stands up—I gave him a seven on his performance, I must admit.

**Hon Mr Conway:** Eight.

**Mr Cureatz:** Eight. Was it eight? I think it was eight. He stands up and introduces these rule changes that I just could not believe. I said, "Is that the Sean I used to know, the fellow I used to buy books for by Gore Vidal and about Lincoln in 1876?" Members would think he would know better, but not the government House leader. I will tell members there must have been a lot of heat from his back bench to change the rules.

They cannot believe that we too in the opposition have been elected and we too are expressing views and concerns of the people of Ontario. We do not like these House rules and we are going to be objecting to them. I will tell members that it might be in October when we finally get out of this place and a lot of members will have the opportunity of listening to one or two of my speeches.

I say to the government whip—he is counting—that he blew it today. He should go and answer to the Premier how come in the rotation one of his backbenchers missed the opportunity of standing up and chewing up the time and asking the questions. He should report on that to the Premier. He should be docked the two limousine rides or something because he blew it. He had better get his act together again in the middle of the week. I think he is getting a little frazzled

with all the mudslinging that has taken place. He has his own job to do.

**Environmental goals:** I say to the minister, under his statement, that it is not so easy just to throw out environment goals, because if he is finally going to take the initiative and make a decision and give direction to Ontario Hydro on where the next major power plant is going to be, what is it going to be? Is it going to be hydro? If it is hydro, we have the concern of my friend the member for Algoma about the flooding of large acreages of lands in native community areas.

Is it going to be nuclear? If it is nuclear, I will tell members there is another area that we are missing in nuclear, now that he is making little notes. I guess I am going to some meeting. Let me just look in my date book. It will just take a little moment here. I know the government House leader will probably be attending.

I think it is this Thursday at 11 am over at the Sutton Place and we are going to be talking about the former Solicitor General. I say to the House leader that I really churkel, when I think of the speeches he and his colleagues gave—

**Hon Mrs Caplan:** What is a churkel?

**Mr Cureatz:** A churkel is a cross between churkle and snorkel—about Roy McMurtry being both Attorney General and Solicitor General at the same time. Margaret Campbell—members should have heard Margaret. Holy smokes, one would have thought the walls were caving in; that there is no way Roy should be serving in both capacities.

What happens? Here is the Attorney General (Mr Scott). Suddenly there is not, I say to the government House leader, one backbencher, not one of them good enough for the Premier to advance into the cabinet. There are 64 of them or 63 or whatever the number is. Members should see all the lawyers here who are on the back bench. I can read them off. There is one right there, the member for Guelph (Mr Ferraro); I think he is one.

No, he is not. Well, there is the member for Kitchener (Mr D. R. Cooke). He is from out that way and he is a pretty good guy. We have the member for Mississauga North (Mr Offer). Let me see, we have somebody over there, another lawyer. We have the member for York East (Ms Hart). How could I forget her? Why should she not be the Solicitor General? Not good enough, I guess. Incredible. Unbelievable.

It is like the opening of the domed stadium when it was pouring rain. I do not mind the Liberal government. It does not know enough to get out of the rain and that is to our advantage,

because of course in the next campaign it is going to reflect on the number of seats it gets. But the guys at the SkyDome, it is teeming rain and they open the roof.

I just want to explain. The idea, when they built that stadium, was that if it is raining, you keep the roof closed so the rain does not fall on the people. If it is sunny out, you open the roof. I know it is difficult, when you look at this Liberal administration, to not get the idea about getting out of the rain when it is raining, but for the kind of money spent over there, it should please think about what it is doing.

The minister goes on and he says here, "Sections of the amendments to the Power Corporation Act also preserve the government's ability to carry out energy policies for the good of Ontario and Canada under the free trade agreement."

I will tell him that I do not think he has done his homework. This was sort of a cutesy from some Liberal policymaker who said, "We are going to attack that federal government on free trade." He should go up to Richview, where I have had the opportunity of visiting a few times, which is a big switching station for Ontario.

We are all interconnected with the north-eastern United States and, holy smokes, we can be producing an electron over on the Bruce Peninsula and it can wind up down in Texas or way over in New York City, wherever New York City is. I have got my directions all mixed up. There is south, so New York City is, yes, about that way. Over in New York City. So what does that tell the minister? It tells him this is a little bit of propaganda, a little bit of smoke and

mirrors about this independence of electricity for Ontario.

Holy smokes, the electricity is running back and forth those transmission lines I do not know how many zillion times a second between us and the United States, and for that matter, Quebec or Manitoba, which also brings into mind—I am interested in the minister's policy statements. Gee, there is so much more to say. I have not even got to my party's position on it.

About his authorization to make further direct suggestions to Ontario Hydro, and that is purchasing power, the committee looked into that too because we covered the three aspects. The last one is a purchasing of power.

I just want to finish this off; two minutes. It is too expensive to build a transmission line from Manitoba. I think it is too expensive from Quebec and they do not seem to be terribly interested. Mind you, it has been the policy of Ontario Hydro to be self-supporting and rely on its own generation capacities. In the official opposition, I do not think my friend the member for Hamilton Mountain is so committed to that. Me, I am committed to that.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr M. C. Ray):** Time, please.

**Mr Cureatz:** There is so much more to be said. All I can say in conclusion is that notwithstanding my comments and concerns, yes, we will be supporting the bill.

On motion by Mr Cureatz, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 1801.

## ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
22	1104	1	1	

Names of persons appealing to the Minister of Natural Resources under the  
Conservation Authorities Act and status of appeal From 1 January 1988 to 4 May 1989

Names	Disposition of Appeal	Adjourned on consent	Adjourned <i>sine die</i>	Settled or Withdrawn	Hearing Held- Decision Pending	Set Down- Hearing Pending	Not Set Down
	Allowed/Dismissed						
Margarita Flores (Landry)					X		
Sarah M. Thomson	X						
Michael Krascik			X				
David Graham			X				
John Dinevski							X
Margaret Kale					X		
William H. Almas					X		
Yorkville North Development Ltd							X
Suzanne and Kevin Berry						X	
Pearl Ling and Temvak Holdings Ltd					X		
Stewart Clutton and Florita Hunt					X		
Mr and Mrs Allan K. Earl	X						
Kenneth Davies					X		
Marshall and Lisa Hogan	X						
Abie and Paul Antony				X			
Castro Antunes							X
Paul E. Ross	X						
Vito Ditta	X						
Robert Thompson	X						
Udo Bauer		X					
Mario Faus	X						
Freure Homes Ltd				X			
John Anga	X						
Jack Christie et al	X						
Bramalea Ltd				X			
Richard Craig	X						
Mr and Mrs P. Doll	X						
Samir Messieha	X						
Mary Holmes				X			
Michael Mitchell							X
Gail McIntyre			X				
Richard S. Nowlan				X			
Roger Epworth	X						
Linda Saunders					X		
Dee White					X		
Nella Soufan					X		
Charles Penstone			X				
Jack and Evelyn Vandenberg							X

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS\*

(130 seats)

Second Session, 34th Parliament

**Lieutenant Governor: Hon Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC**

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)  
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)  
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)  
 Beer, Charles (York North L)  
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)  
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)  
**Bradley, Hon James J.**, Minister of the Environment (St Catharines L)  
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)  
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)  
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)  
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)  
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)  
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)  
**Caplan, Hon Elinor**, Minister of Health (Orillia L)  
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)  
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)  
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)  
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)  
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)  
**Conway, Hon Sean G.**, Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)  
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)  
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)  
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)  
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)  
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)  
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)  
**Curling, Hon Alvin**, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)  
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)  
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St Catharines-Brock L)  
**Eakins, Hon John F.**, Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)  
**Edighoffer, Hon Hugh A.**, Speaker (Perth L)  
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)  
**Elston, Hon Murray J.**, Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Financial Institutions (Bruce L)  
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)  
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)  
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)  
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)  
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)  
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)  
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)  
**Fontaine, Hon René**, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)  
**Fulton, Hon Ed**, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)  
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)  
**Grandmaitre, Hon Bernard C.**, Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)  
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)  
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)  
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)  
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 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)  
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)  
**Hošek, Hon Chaviva**, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)  
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)  
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)  
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)  
 Kanter, Ron (St Andrew-St Patrick L)  
**Kerrio, Hon Vincent G.**, Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)  
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)  
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)  
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)  
**Kwinter, Hon Monte**, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)  
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)  
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)  
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)  
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)  
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)  
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)  
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)  
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)  
**Mancini, Hon Remo**, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)  
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)  
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)  
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)  
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)  
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)  
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)  
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)  
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)  
**McLeod, Hon Lyn**, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)  
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)

Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)  
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)  
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste Marie NDP)  
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)  
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)  
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)  
**Nixon, Hon Robert F.**, Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Brant-Haldimand L)  
**Oddie Munro, Hon Lily**, Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)  
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)  
**O'Neil, Hon Hugh P.**, Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)  
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)  
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)  
**Patten, Hon Richard**, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)  
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)  
**Peterson, Hon David R.**, Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)  
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)  
**Phillips, Hon Gerry**, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)  
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)  
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)  
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)  
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)  
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 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)  
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)  
**Ramsay, Hon David**, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)  
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-Walkerville L)  
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)  
 Reyecraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

**Riddell, Hon Jack**, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)  
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)  
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)  
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)  
**Scott, Hon Ian G.**, Attorney General and acting Solicitor General and minister responsible for native affairs (St George-St David L)  
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)  
 Smith, E. Joan, (London South L)  
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)  
**Sorbara, Hon Gregory S.**, Minister of Labour (York Centre L)  
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)  
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)  
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)  
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)  
**Sweeney, Hon John**, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)  
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)  
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)  
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)  
**Ward, Hon Christopher C.**, Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)  
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)  
**Wilson, Hon Mavis**, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)  
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)  
**Wong, Hon Robert C.**, Minister of Energy (Fort York L)  
**Wrye, Hon William**, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

\*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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<b>Second reading</b>		<b>Les amis de TVOntario . . . . .</b>	1186
<b>Power Corporation Amendment Act, 1989, Bill 204 . . . . .</b>	1205	Mme Poole	
Hon Mr Wong . . . . .	1205	Mme Martel	
Mrs Grier . . . . .	1206	M. Villeneuve	
Mr Runciman . . . . .	1208	<b>Visitor . . . . .</b>	1190
Mr Charlton . . . . .	1211	The Speaker	
Mr Wildman . . . . .	1218	<b>Adjournment . . . . .</b>	1229
Mr Cureatz . . . . .	1219	<b>Erratum . . . . .</b>	1230
Adjourned . . . . .	1229	<b>Alphabetical list of members . . . . .</b>	1231









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